Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Outline permission passed for 86 properties on land

JOY AS HOMES TO REPLACE EYESORE

Report by David Cosgrove

MORE than 80 homes will be built on a derelict 'eyesore' site in the heart of Oldbury after plans were given the green light.

Outline planning permission has been granted for the 86-home scheme on former industrial land in Mill Lane, near Titford Canal, overlooking Langley Green Park.

It has been welcomed by ward councillors, who say the site has needed overhauling for years after a previous planning application fell through due to the financial crash.

Developer Willsgrove Developments Limited will confirm the exact layout of the scheme at a later date.

But documents submitted as part of the firm's planning package have earmarked 86 homes for the 2.3-hectare site.

Ward councillor Bill Gavan said: "The site has been an eyesore for years. A planning application was granted before the economic crash but that didn't go ahead.

"I think the developers have got the funding so it's going to go ahead and they are going to be building.

Tidied

"The site is close to the city with the railway nearby. It's good for the area that this is going to be tidied up and good for Langley.

"I think there will be affordable homes as well – which we need.

"As a ward councillor I don't see any downsides to this at all."

A design and access statement submitted by the developer states: "The development of this brownfield site in the heart of Oldbury seeks to provide a sustainable mix of high quality new homes. It aims to have its own identity to create a stronger new neighbourhood, yet reflect local character to integrate it into the existing community.

"The development proposals, while being indicative, offer the opportunity to create a safe, welcoming and accessible environment. Improved road links and additional footpath and cycle ways and outward facing houses will help to stitch the scheme into the surrounding environment."

A council report states about the proposal that has been submitted: "The site is in a poor condition and bringing the land into residential use will substantially improve the environment for nearby residents." The land was cleared of industrial buildings in 2009/10 and works to include security fencing and further site clearance took place in 2014.

BARGING IN WITH BAGS OF ACTIVITIES ON THE CUT

Annette Montague, selling bags from her boat during the event on the canal off Owen Street, Tipton over the Bank Holiday weekend

DOZENS of boats moored up in the Black Country for a mini-festival to celebrate Easter. The boats arrived at Dudley Canal, near the Fountain Inn in Tipton over the bank holiday weekend.

The event was organised by the Friends of Tipton Cut and it marked the start of this year's boating season, allowing owners to catch up with friends and celebrate the canal's heritage.

The friends group has adopted a stretch of canal in Tipton through the Canal and River Trust's Community Adoption Scheme.

Traders also set up stalls at the side of their boats for members of the public to buy goods as part of a 'floating market'.

Ann Johnson, founder member of the organisation, said: "Considering the weather it was absolutely wonderful.

"We had a floating market where the traders were selling their goods and had some historical boats which were open to members of the public. We have adopted a stretch of canal in Tipton from Canal & River Trust, from Watery Lane Bridge near Caggy's Boatyard through to Tipton Green Bridge."

Mark Evans was one of the canal fans who attended. He said: "The weather hasn't been brilliant but we can't do much about that. It's been a good weekend anyway.

"Hundreds of people have been around in the past couple of days.

"It's a great gathering of people and that's why we wanted to come down."

The friends group is hoping to boost its numbers. For more information email ann.onthecut@virginmedia.com or turn up on the fourth Saturday of every month on the car park by Caggy's Boatyard.

Mayor leads tributes after leader's death

SANDWELL Mayor, Councillor Barbara Price, has led the tributes this week to council leader Councillor Darren Cooper, who died suddenly on Saturday, aged 52.

Councillor Cooper

Councillor Price said: "As the Mayor of Sandwell it was with the greatest sadness I learned of the tragic death of the leader, Councillor Darren Cooper.

"Darren was much loved and respected by so many people at the council as well as residents of the borough. He worked tirelessly in his role as a councillor for the Soho & Victoria ward since 1991 and more recently in his role as leader of the council since 2009. He showed great ability, passion and compassion in his dealings with so many people. I know he was immensely proud of being a 'son of Sandwell' and took that pride and desire to fight for the rights of the people of Sandwell at a local, regional and national level.

Condolences

"I, like so many people, have lost not just an inspirational colleague but also a friend. "On behalf of Sandwell Council and its residents I wish to express my condolences to Darren's wife Caren and his family and offer them our support at this difficult time."

Books of condolence have opened at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury and also at Smethwick Library. He was hailed as 'a true son of Sandwell' by friend Tom Watson, the deputy leader of the Labour Party and West Bromwich East MP.

Mr Watson said: "I would like to remember the funny and humorous friend who loved the Albion and bank holiday fishing."

Councillor Cooper had been widely touted as a possible candidate for the new metro mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority, which he played a leading hand in bringing together.

Deputy leader Councillor Steve Eling, said his death was a terrible shock. "He was hugely liked and respected by both his colleagues at the council and the constituents who he was dedicated to serving, " he said. Mr Eling will now assume the role of council leader, as is procedure.

● More tributes – Page 6

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Helpers cut up over kindness

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UK's largest crane used for bridge bid

The crane at work

THE UK's largest crane was at work in the Black Country over the Easter Bank holiday as Network Rail worked to replace one of the main bridges out of Wolverhampton station.

The crane was capable of lifting up to 1200 tons and was a whopping 252ft-high.

It was used to install a new bridge at Wolverhampton and used as part of Network Rail's £40bn Railway Upgrade Plan over the Easter weekend.

Work has also taken place at Smethwick Galton Bridge. A total of £5 million has been invested to replace a major junction at the station allowing trains to change tracks and routes, making it more reliable in the future.

The project manager of the site said on Twitter: "We're here at this major junction between Wolverhampton and Birmingham to improve reliability of services by replacing existing infrastructure." Track, overhead electrical wires and accompanying signalling were also replaced.

Martin Frobisher, route managing director for Network Rail, said: "On the Birmingham to Wolverhampton line, our orange army worked day and night to replace a complex piece of track which is susceptible to failure. This will mean better operational flexibility which in turn will mean improved reliability for passengers and more capacity in the area in the future."

The crane has previously been used at the Anfield Stadium in 2010, to raise the truss above the Main Stand as part of the most complex parts of the stadium expansion project that is set to be completed during the 2016/17 season.

In 2008, the crane was also used in Stockton to help transform the riverside.

Thousands in homes wait as 600 sold off

AROUND 500 homes have been sold through the Right to Buy scheme in Sandwell in the past two years – despite more than 6,000 people being on the waiting list for a council house.

Sandwell Council says it is seeking to build 3,000 new homes by next year to ease waiting lists and to plan for a baby boom expected in the next decade.

The authority says 3,035 council tenants have requested to transfer to new homes – many of which council leaders claim have been hit by the bedroom tax.

A Freedom of Information request revealed 467 households have requested to downsize their properties.

But it also emerged 164 families requested a transfer due to 'overcrowding' in their present homes.

Sandwell Council's deputy leader, Councillor Steve Eling, said the policy was creating a 'scandal' over council housing. "In a lot of cases it's people waiting for a period to see if the type of house they want comes up," he said.

Desirable

"This isn't 6,000 people living on the streets. Council houses are the most desirable housing for people on a low income. The bedroom tax has been an issue for this. This is the stupidity of this policy.

"Because of this waiting lists will grow because the number of people trying to get council houses will get longer."

The council said 491 homes were sold through the Right to Buy policy in the last two years. And the 476 households have lodged Right to Buy applications at the moment in the borough.

Opposition UKIP councillor Philip Garrett said he had requested meetings with the council over the issue. He said around 250 families living in his ward around Princes End, Tipton, were on the waiting list and he is demanding the authority does more. "Unless we are going to build more homes for council tenants that we are just going to go around in circles," he said.

Finance bosses at the council – which is facing up to crippling Government cuts – have pledged to invest around £10 million into council housing this year.

Priest joy for Polish community

The congregation seen inside St Michael and the Holy Angels Church at West Bromwich

PALM Sunday was an extra-special day for the Polish Community in West Bromwich.

The Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales Monsignor Stefan Wylezek came up from London to install Ksiadz (Father) Pralat Maraszkiewicz as Priest-in-charge of a new Chaplaincy for the Polish Community in the town.

Monsignor Wylezek said: "I want to wish all the best for Eastertime and the Easter Feast for Archbishop Longley and for all the parishioners from this Diocese. I would like to thank him very much for the installation of the new Priest-in-charge in West Bromwich, Walsall and also in Lichfield."

"We are so, so grateful for him taking care about the needs of the Polish people who want to pray and express their Faith in their traditional language and piety."

From left, Birmingham Polish priest Father Marcin Kordel, Rector Monsignor Stefan Wylezek and new Priest-in-charge Ksiadz (Father) Pralat Maraszkiewicz Photos: Jozef Lopuszynski

Changes due at car park following complaints

FURTHER changes will be made to the £1 million revamped Rowley Regis station car park after complaints from residents – just a year after a previous overhaul.

The number of free spaces at the station was more than doubled to 750 last year, but commuters are still clogging up residential roads. Now Centro has confirmed an electronic counter will be installed so drivers know how many spaces are remaining and to improve the road layout at the exit.

Delighted

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris and ward Councillor Karen Shakespeare have worked together to get the transport body to bring about more changes.

Councillor Shakespeare said: "I am delighted that after months of work acting on behalf of local people we have convinced Centro that they should install an automated car count system at the station.

"They have promised to do this in the next few months and they will work with Sandwell and Dudley to improve the infrastructure outside the station.

"Although this will not resolve all the problems that local residents suffer in our ward, hopefully it is a first step toward resolving issues that are caused by station users parking in nearby streets."

Spice of life is due at house

A FREE weekend of fun, activities and food from around the world is being held at Oak House Museum in West Bromwich to celebrate the spring season.

Oak House Spice is being run by Sandwell Council's museum staff at the Oak House in Oak Lane on Saturday and Sunday.

The site will be full of food stalls selling foods from around the world and activities to explore the use of spices in food, medicine and lifestyle.

There will also be free family theatre shows, magic shows and balloon modelling and much more.

And on the Sunday, there will also be free live music performances, including Hannah Johnson and the Broken Hearts closing the festival from 3.30pm.

The Festival is running 12pm to 4pm on both days. Entry to the festival is free and suitable for all ages.

For more information call the Oak House Museum on 0121 553 0759.

Prog rock legends to play at Robin 2

PROGRESSIVE rock bands Renaissance and Curved Air will play a show at Bilston's Robin 2 next month.

They will play the show on April 19. Tickets are £25 in advance and £27.50 on the door. Book online at www.therobin.co.uk

Boy racers pledge as speeder is locked up

POLICE have renewed their pledge to tackle street racing after a driver was jailed for speeding on the Black Country Route.

Tejinder Singh, from Babors Field in Bilston, was spotted tearing along the A463 in a friend's Range Rover at speeds approaching 90 mph.

The 23-year-old was racing alongside a VW Golf driver back on June 29, 2014 and, at one stage, nearly toppled the 4x4 as he tried negotiating a roundabout at the junction with Over Field Drive.

He was jailed for five months at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court last Monday and also disqualified from driving for 18 months.

He had pleaded not guilty to driving dangerously, taking part in a race and speeding.

A court injunction has since been introduced that bans 'car cruising' – including organising or promoting such events – anywhere in the Black Country.

Chief Inspector Jed White from the Central Motorway Police Group, said: "We take street racing, or 'car cruising' very seriously: our roads are for the public and their safety should not be jeopardised by selfish drivers intent on using them as a personal drag strip.

"We will take action and offenders can expect to be handed heavy fines, risk having their car seized or, as this case has shown, potentially end up behind bars."

Crackdown on young drinkers

A CRACKDOWN on underage drinking has been launched in Sandwell.

Sandwell's Community Alcohol Partnership has been hitting the streets of Rowley Regis and Old Hill to talk to young people and giving safety advice. Trading standards officers also carried out test purchases at five shops with underage volunteers.

One out of five shops visited sold alcohol to the underage volunteer and will now receive a final warning.

Bob Charnley, manager of Sandwell Council's trading standards, said: "The aim of test purchases is to deter retailers from selling to youngsters, to reduce anti-social behaviour and the problems associated with drinking and to protect young people from the potential dangers of alcohol."

Choir seeking new members

SINGERS are invited to swell the ranks of Wednesbury Community Choir. Rehearsals run from 7pm to 9pm every Tuesday evening. Members sing everything from rock to pop to classical to jazz.

All abilities are welcome to join in. It costs £2 per session which includes tea and biscuits.

Diamond couple are as happy as ever

Norman and Anne Lockley

A COUPLE who have lived in West Bromwich for nearly all their lives have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

Ann and Norman Lockley tied the knot on March 17, 1956, and the couple celebrated the milestone with their family and friends. They described their secret to success as simply being 'always happy together.'

"I would say our secret is we have always been very happy," Ann, aged 81, said. "We have had our ups and downs like everybody else but you get over them. We are still as happy today as ever. Norman is very helpful as a husband. I have now got trouble with my back but he helps me get around."

They first met through a friend of Ann's after being introduced to each other in West Bromwich and quickly made a connection. They went out together for 12 months and eventually married at St John's Church in West Bromwich. "We did sort of know we were made for each other right away," added Ann. And she recalled their wedding day. "It was a lovely occasion," she said. "We met at 20, got engaged at 21 and married at 22. But we couldn't have a honeymoon in those days so we went away in the summer."

Ann use to work at a printing works in Bromford Lane, West Bromwich but had to leave her job when she got married. Norman, aged 82, served for two years in the Royal Armoured Corps as part of his National Service, where he learned to drive.

Ann was born in West Bromwich, while Norman was born in Great Bridge before moving to the town. They have two sons, two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

Jail for freed inmate's lover after sex on bus

A WOMAN who was caught having sex on a bus in full view of three young children has been jailed.

Samantha Truslove was so excited her boyfriend had been released from prison that she couldn't even wait until the end of the bus ride home before getting intimate with him, Dudley Magistrates Court was told.

The 26-year-old was given an Asbo banning her from the borough in 2013 and was also in court charged with breaching that order after being drunk and abusive towards police within the boundaries of where she was not allowed to be.

She and her former partner were turfed out of Blackheath after making their neighbours' lives hell with their drunken behaviour.

Truslove, of Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, had met up with new boyfriend Peter Walker on January 6 after he was released from prison, the court was told.

They were on the back seat of a single-deck bus going through Cradley Heath when they were caught in the act by three schoolchildren.

Ms Linda Gudgeon, prosecuting, told the court: "It was school-leaving time and two eight-year-old boys and a nine-year-old girl saw and had to have their eyes averted. One mother said she has had to have a discussion with her child about it several times since."

Outraging

Truslove was jailed for 28 weeks in her absence after being removed from the dock for shouting at district judge Graham Wilkinson.

She pleaded guilty to outraging public decency and breaching her Asbo. Mr Wilkinson was also told how Truslove was arrested in Sandwell after becoming abusive towards police who had stopped a van she was in.

She had breached the terms of the Asbo several times since it was imposed in 2013, the court was also told.

Walker, aged 37, also of Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, appeared in the dock separately. He was sent to prison for 17 weeks after also admitting outraging public decency.

Mr Wilkinson told Walker: "You left prison on January 6 knowing that if you committed an offence you would go back to prison. You didn't even wait until you got home to commit an offence. You went straight out and consumed alcohol, had sexual intercourse in full sight of all people wandering by including children."

Growing gratitude from volunteers

Friends of All Saints Church Graveyard treasurer Paul Hunt, and chairman Malcolm Glass, at the church

CHURCH volunteers who were targeted by thieves and had thousands of pounds worth of gardening equipment stolen have thanked the public for their support.

Burglars targeted the friends group of All Saints Church graveyard in February after using gas tools to cut into a garden shed and make off with tools. But after appealing for help campaigners say donations and support has flooded in helping them to continue their charitable work.

Campaigner Alan Gill, aged 64, said: "We had really good response with donations, various friends and people from the church have donated money. We don't keep the tools overnight now because of what happened, we take them away when we finish our work."

The site contains war graves and is the resting place of Baggies legend Billy Bassett. Bassett served Albion for more than half a century, playing more than 250 times before becoming a director and then chairman. It is believed gas cutting tools were used to break into the metal shed before a lawnmower, four hedge trimmers and a generator were taken, believed to be worth £4,500.

A campaign was launched around 18 months ago by volunteers to tidy up the site.

The group has since received more than £1,600 in donations, alongside a strimmer donated from a member of the public.

For anyone wishing to make a donation to the group, or volunteer, call Jean on 07736 379660.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Group marks its milestone

THE Inner Wheel Club in Wednesbury celebrated its 75th charter and fellowship. The first meeting of the club was held in August 1940 and since then they have gone on raise thousands of pounds for local charities and welcome guest speakers such as Margaret Thatcher.

Their current charity of the year is Sandwell Young Carers. The event took place at The Masonic Lodge in Russell Street on March 14. Among the guests were Mayor of Sandwell Barbara Price and her consort Councillor Robert Price.

Entertainer is to host new show

ENTERTAINER and broadcaster Brian Dakin, is preparing to host a new show next month.

Known as Billy Spake Mon, he will present the Omma N Chain Show on April 9. It will feature local bands and performers at Brook Street Community Centre, Tipton, from 7.30pm

Performing will be local band Missing Link and Wednesbury duo So It Goes, solo singer songwriter John Langford and comedic magician Ron Popple.

Tickets are £5 and can be booked at the centre or on 0121 557 0371.

Saddling up for cycling events

CYCLING events are taking place in Sandwell every month. Sandwell Valley Rides will take budding cyclists along paths or minor roads in the borough and last around two to three hours.

They will be held on the first Sunday of every month, beginning at 10am. It is recommended children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult.

For more information call Sandwell Lifestyle Choices on 0800 011 4656.

Pub's getting ready for a comedy tonight

A COMEDY night takes place at a Cradley Heath pub each month.

The open mic comedy night takes place every Thursday evening at the Hollybush Pub. The event is free to enter.

Doors open at 7pm and shows start at 8pm.

Comedy acts from all over the country perform at the pub. Takeaway food can be ordered and guests can eat on the premises. For more information call 07949594484.

Stroll back to health

PEOPLE can enjoy a stroll around Smethwick's Lightwoods Park as part of the Healthy Walks Programme.

Walks take place every Friday at 2pm.

People who would like to take part should meet at the park's Galton Road entrance.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THINGS misheard. A reader recalls her two children returning from a music lesson at primary school singing: "Edelweiss, edelweiss, bless my old man forever."

ANOTHER reader swears he heard someone on Bargain Hunt (BBC1) showing off a haemorrhoid barometer.

RESEARCH by the Royal College of Music suggests that playing the drums in group sessions can help reduce the players' depression and anxiety. And what of the mental wellbeing of the people next door . . ?

INSURANCE company research shows the number of speeding drivers nabbed by police last year was up 20 per cent on the previous year. Good to see one successful growth industry, innit? Kerching!

PRESUMABLY the cops are able to concentrate on hunting down motorists because figures for recorded crime are falling. But then it's no wonder, given that crime figures are shamelessly massaged to leave out anything embarrassing. For example, my computer spam folder shows that between March 13-23 there were 88 attempts to steal personal information and take money from me. There are literally billions of these attempted thefts every year, yet they appear absolutely nowhere in any crime statistics. Mind how you go.

CLAYTON Williams, aged 19, has been jailed for 20 years for killing Pc Dave Phillips during a high speed chase, just three weeks after coming out of jail on licence. This is what his lawyer told the court: "Mr Williams comes from a deprived area of Merseyside and . . . had a lack of education and a lack of opportunity. Lessons need to be learnt by Government that communities and young people, who are abandoned by the State, who lack opportunity and direction will sometimes turn to crime." So in this version, Williams is the victim, Pc Phillips was part of the system that oppressed him and the real villains were the politicians. What a wonderful exercise in shifting the blame. Paid for, of course, by you and me.

HOW to deal with terrorists? Christine Shawcroft, a member of Labour's national executive, says we should have a cup of tea with Islamic State leaders instead of bombing them. When her comments become public, she insisted they were "jocular." So here's the joke in full. Speaking at a Labour First meeting, she imagined a voter suggesting that Jeremy Corbyn would take tea with terrorists instead of fighting them. And here's the "jocular" punchline. Shawcroft said: "Now I mean, you know, maybe we should try it!" Don't give up the day job, eh?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Action taken to help in diabetes battle

NEW projects aimed at helping people at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes is being launched in Sandwell and Dudley.

They are two of 27 areas across the country due to begin offering the scheme, which included help with healthy eating and exercise programmes. The schemes are part of the national NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NHS DPP).

GPs will invite people they know to be at high risk to enrol for tailored help. There is currently almost 100,000 people in Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull with Type 2 diabetes, which is said to be largely preventable through lifestyle changes. Around 150,000 are thought to be at high risk of developing it.

The new programme in these areas is being led by Birmingham South Central Clinical Commissioning Group (BSC CCG).

Chairman Andrew Coward, who is also a GP in Kings Norton, said: "Since we started our pilot prevention programme a year ago, we have seen targeted support make significant improvements to the health and wellbeing of our communities. It's great news that similar help will now be available across Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull." Dr Kiran Patel, medical director at NHS England West Midlands, said: "Obesity and lifestyle-related issues have taken their toll on people's health. Also, the complications of diabetes cost society and the NHS £10bn a year. This programme will get advice and practical help to a group of people who can drastically reduce their risk of developing the condition."

Sentence halved for dealer who hid drugs

By David Banner

A DRUG dealer who specialised in hiding class A substances in his backside has had his sentence almost halved, after a ruling by top judges. Harras Hanif Khan, aged 22, is said to have been part of a group which ran a drug dealing ring in the West Midlands.

Judges heard that the conspiracy operated in the Wednesbury and West Bromwich area for 18 months.

Khan and his co-conspirators cruised the streets in a fleet of VW and Audi cars, always with a 'large tub of Vaseline' to hand on the dashboard, London's Criminal Appeal Court heard. If they spotted a police officer, they would scoop out a handful of Vaseline, rub it on their backsides, and quickly hide their stash, a practice known as 'plugging'.

Khan was caught however, when police stopped his car in May 2014 and decided to search him – because he looked uncomfortable. He was 'found to have a bag of drugs protruding from his backside'.

Conspiracy

"A large tub of Vaseline was found in the car, from which a large scoop had been removed," Mr Justice Sweeney told the court. Khan, of Crompton Road, Handsworth, was jailed for five years four months in May last year at Birmingham Crown Court, along with others. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine.

But Mr Justice Sweeney, Lord Justice Bean and Judge David Griffiths Jones have now cut his sentence almost in half, reducing it to three years. His lawyers argued that he was unfairly sentenced more harshly than the other members of the gang, when he had been no more heavily involved than them.

Mr Justice Sweeney said: "This conspiracy had a serious effect on the residents of area, making their lives a misery so that they were afraid to go outside their homes."

But the judge concluded: "It seems to us that there was no tenable basis on which to distinguish Khan from the others...the sentence must be reduced to three years."

Hundreds on the run for Sport Relief

People putting their best feet forward during the Sport Relief Mile in Dartmouth Park, in West Bromwich

MORE than 200 people turned out in force for a charity run in West Bromwich which was opened by charity champion Blind Dave Heeley.

People of all ages took part in the Sport Relief Mile in Dartmouth Park and Sandwell Valley Country Park.

Organisers hailed the day on Sunday as a 'massive success' which helped raise much-needed cash for Sport Relief. After Blind Dave opened the event there was a mass warm-up led by Sandwell Leisure Trust – who also co-ordinated the whole day's activities.

It came the day after the Dave had finished the Baggies Cycle Challenge riding from Norwich to The Hawthorns on Saturday afternoon. The 180-mile ride featured members of West Brom's charity The Albion Foundation which is marking its 25th anniversary. "I had only gone down with the intention of starting it, maybe doing a training run," he said.

"But a mate of mine was down there too and he asked so I ended up doing the three mile event. It is a great event – I really enjoyed it. It is the jewel in the crown to have Sandwell Valley and Dartmouth Park."

Jasmine Heir, the Trust's physical activity development officer for West Bromwich, said it has been a great event. "It was a fantastic day," she said.

"We even got the sunshine in the afternoon.

"The whole day was such good fun and so positive. It was a pleasure to be involved and help the community come together to support such a great cause."

Hospital brings in extra beds for influx

DOZENS of temporary beds have been brought in to help Sandwell's main hospital cope in the wake of admissions over the winter.

But hospital chiefs say they want to cut this number to reduce the spend on agency workers.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital, says it has used 60 additional beds since January. Most were brought into wards which were closed but were reopened to help accommodate the influx of patients.

Trust chief executive Toby Lewis said urged more work to be done with care homes to cut the number of 'avoidable emergency admissions' to help stretched hospital departments.

It comes after watchdog group Healthwatch Sandwell produced a report highlighting areas for concerns at the borough's main hospital. Healthwatch officers visited Sandwell Hospital at the end of 2015, and discussed concerns with 11 patients or carers about hospital standards.

The report found 'failures to provide appropriate nursing care, communications issues regarding patients and family, including end of life circumstances, and limitations in the complaints system'.

Bosses, in a response which goes before Sandwell Council's health scrutiny committee today, Thursday, say they are keen to discuss the issues arising from the report.

But the trust says that there are no 'safety concerns' to come out of its findings.

Work under way over clear-up

WORK is under way to clear up a neglected Great Barr beauty spot in the hopes of making it more accessible.

Campaigners had wanted Gorse Farm Wood nature reserve, off Eastwood Road, to be transformed in a bid to help boost visitor numbers. Repairs are being arranged to a walkway, known as the Broadwalk, which is situated over a marsh in the 15-acre nature reserve.

Ward councillor Dave Hosell said a friends group is being revived to safeguard the reserve's future.

They want to bid for funding which would be spent on helping clear overgrown pathways to help people access the site including those with disabilities. "It is exciting that work is getting going as it is something we have been working on with the council," he said.

Rock concert for children's charity

A GIG is taking place a Tipton pub to raise money for a children's charity.

Newly-formed classic rock and blues band Rollin' Thunder will be performing at the Barge and Barrel venue for charity Brainwave on June 4.

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Offenders weigh in with 4-ton litter pick

FOUR tons of litter have been cleared from two open spaces in West Bromwich during a programme getting offenders to help out in their community. Household waste, packages and wrappers have been bagged up in Hateley Heath discarded on land close to homes and businesses.

Offenders sentenced to carry out unpaid work in the community were tasked with the clean up over the past few days. Ward councillors have welcomed the scheme saying it will help improve the area to have the rubbish removed. The open space and walkway at Haig Street and Church Lane and the open space at Lily Street were cleaned up following reports of rubbish by neighbourhood police.

Offenders, supervised by Staffordshire and West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company, put in more than 180 hours of unpaid work to clean up the rubbish.

Ward councillor Paul Sanders said the scheme had proved to be a success.

"They have cleaned the area up well. Local councillors and campaigners keep their eye on their areas. It is amazing how much waste can be picked up from the land."

He added: "I'm happy with this kind of criminal punishment. It shows people in the community that criminals are getting their just deserts and hopefully will act so they wouldn't want to do what they did again.

Sgt Sarah Smyth, from Sandwell Police, said the scheme had been planned as part of the wider Safer 6 community crackdown on crime.

Festival due at Oak House

A FREE weekend of fun, activities and food from around the world is being held at Oak House Museum in West Bromwich to celebrate the spring season.

Oak House Spice is being run by Sandwell Council's museum staff at the Oak House in Oak Lane, West Bromwich, on Saturday and Sunday.

The site will be full of food stalls selling foods from around the world and activities to explore the use of spices in food, medicine and lifestyle.

There will also be free family theatre shows, magic shows and balloon modelling and much more.

And on the Sunday, there will also be free live music performances from 3.30pm. For details call the Oak House Museum on 0121 553 0759.

Cannabis found in raid at house

ALMOST 30 cannabis plants were discovered during a raid on a house in Quinton. A drugs warrant was executed by officers in Blandford Road. They found 29 cannabis plants which have been confiscated.

Award for teenager in refugee cause

Maya receives her award

A TEENAGER from Syria has won a prestigious award from a national children's charity for fighting for the rights of other young refugee and asylum seekers.

Maya Ghazal, a 16-year-old, who studies engineering at Sandwell College, received a Star Award from The Children's Society for her dedication to raising awareness of the horrors that young refugees can face.

She has confidently spoken out at a number of events, including a public vigil in Birmingham in September 2015 to remember all the refugees who lost their lives while searching for safety. The teenager received her national award at society's Over the Rainbow event, which recognises the success, resilience and determination of young people who are involved with the charity.

Lizzy Bell, a project worker at The Children's Society's MY-Place in Birmingham who nominated Maya for her award, said: "Maya deserves formal recognition of her selfless determination to help others, during a time when she herself was experiencing huge difficulties."

On receiving her award, Maya said: "The Star Awards event was really great and I enjoyed the day so much. I now have more passion to do even more to help people."

Maya received her award at The Children's Society's eighth Over the Rainbow event, held at the Heritage Motor Centre in Warwickshire on March 12. The prize was presented by Val Floy, chief operating officer and Peter Grigg, director of external affairs at The Children's Society. For more details go to www.childrenssociety.org.uk/

Work begins on making council homes warmer

WORK has begun on improving hundreds of council homes across Sandwell which will aim to keep families warmer and bring down heating bills.

Properties are being improved in Tipton, Wednesbury, Rowley Regis and the Yew Tree estate in West Bromwich.

Most of the homes were built more than half a century ago and are in need of sprucing up.

The changes are being rolled out following a pilot on the Hamstead estate in Great Barr and form part of Sandwell Council's £75 million homes project, with the work being carried out by contractors Lovell, VINCI Facilities and Wates Living Space.

Outside wall insulation is being fitted to make homes warmer and more energy efficient and it is hoped families will make savings on heating bills, and also benefit from reduced condensation and lower noise levels.

Structural problems which may have developed over the years will also be repaired as part of the project. Sandwell Council's housing boss Councillor Paul Moore said the changes would make a big difference to families. He said: "Tenants have been providing extremely positive feedback about the difference these improvements are making to their homes.

Delighted

"Historically, these homes have been cold and hard to heat but the benefit of extra insulation is felt as soon as the work is done." Carl Yale, partnering manager at Lovell, said: "We're delighted with the amount of difference we've been able to make to these homes.

"Although they were not designed as long-term housing solutions, residents have understandably become very attached to their homes and we're pleased to be able to bring them right up to standard, they look great inside and out."

Other home improvements are being carried out across the borough, which include kitchens and bathrooms, heating systems and roofs either being replaced or upgraded.

Finance bosses at the council – which is facing up to crippling Government cuts – have pledged to invest around £10 million into council housing this year. The council has also committed to buying properties on new developments from house builders to allow it to expand its housing stock. It was reported in January that more than 6,000 people are currently waiting for a council house in Sandwell.

A clear improvement for tenants

83-year old Norman Blewitt from Ivy Road in Tipton who has had his living room and kitchen windows replaced

A £3 MILLION scheme is being rolled out to replace windows at the homes of thousands of council tenants across Sandwell.

Sandwell is working with two contractors Lovell and VINCI Facilities to replace all single glazed windows in council homes.

The windows will be replaced double-glazed windows in a bid to reduce fuel bills for tenants.

Around 9,500 windows are set to be fitted this year and teams are now installing up to 150 windows a week. One tenant whose windows are being replaced is 83-year old Norman Blewitt, from Ivy Road, in Tipton.

Mr Blewitt, said: "I used to have problems with condensation and the odd draught on really cold days but the new windows downstairs have sorted that out.

"They seem to be keeping the heat in better and the sound out. I've been here in this house for 53 years and I'm absolutely thrilled with the changes."

Sandwell councillor Paul Moore, said: "One of the most frequent enquiries we get from tenants is to replace single-glazed windows with double-glazed. We're doing this work because people tell us it's important to them."

The scheme is targeting homes not in high-rise blocks or covered by the council's separate internal improvements programme.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Career crook jailed for latest thefts

A PROFESSIONAL thief with a staggering 232 previous convictions has been jailed following his latest crime.

Kevin Osborne racked up his 125th and 126th thefts when he stole two Dyson vacuum cleaners, Dudley Magistrates Court heard. District judge Graham Wilkinson told Osborne, aged 44, that he had a 'truly appalling record' and that the only way for him to learn was by being sent to prison. The court heard Osborne had struck in Cardiff, Leicester, and Grimsby.

Osborne, of Corporation Street, Birmingham, was jailed for 48 weeks.

Fun for all at area's libraries

THERE'S something for all ages to enjoy this Easter at their local Sandwell library.

Community library manager Robert Hazel said: "All libraries will be hosting free events and activities for children and families during the Easter break. And there is plenty for others to do as well, including knit and natter groups, Scrabble and board games clubs and the recently-launched 'Cant and Colour' art therapy groups."

And there is FREE internet access and wi-fi. For details, go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries

Park is blocked off to travellers

ACTION has been taken to stop travellers taking caravans onto a Halesowen park. Hurst Green Park was repeatedly targeted by groups last summer prompting Dudley Council to step up security.

Extra bollards have been installed at the entrance of Moat Drive to prevent vehicles accessing the site. Ward councillor Hilary Bills said: "The work is now complete and the park is secure." She added she hoped the action would protect the park in the future.

Knit and natter group in search of members

A KNIT and natter group is inviting people to join its sessions.

Members meet on Mondays from 5pm to 7pm and on Tuesday's from 11am to 12.30pm in the Library of Birmingham cafe.

Materials are available but if people have their own equipment they are asked to bring it along as supplies are limited to donations.

For more details on the group's activities contact knitandnatterbrum@gmail.com

Calling all singers

BUDDING singers are invited to swell the ranks of The Wednesbury Community Choir.

Rehearsals run from 7-9pm every Tuesday. Members sing everything from rock to pop. to classical to jazz.

All abilities are welcome to join in, at £2 per session with tea and biscuits.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Basement for £70m? I'm in the wrong job

MY first reaction to reading about tycoon Robert Beecham's plans for a £70 million underground basement in Primrose Hill, central London, was that I must be in the wrong job.

The application, approved by Camden Council, includes a Roman bath, juice bar, and room to store his cigar collection. And, according to the reports, Mr Beecham has made his money out of Star Wars bubble bath.

My second thought was about why people go to these lengths just for the sake of living in central London.

You would think somebody enterprising enough to make billions out of Darth Vader detergent would have the imagination to realise that there is life north of the Watford Gap, where there is also cleaner air and plenty of space to build as big a cigar room as you could possibly want.

But then I read that the project will cause noise and disruption for Jamie Oliver. In that case, bring on the bulldozers.

❒❒❒

THERE have been a lot of changes to West Bromwich in recent years. Most of them positive.

Yes, there was the disastrous Public arts centre, which in reality became a very expensive public toilet, but that was years ago, and it at least looks like lessons have been learned from that debacle.

And the New Square shopping development is a prime example of what can be achieved when local government works with retailers and developers, and gives the people what they want, rather than what it thinks they should want.

However, one thing that has never been addressed is the dreadful road layout. One-way systems, no-entry signs, no-left turn, no-right turn.

Every time I have been down there in the hunt for the very limited number of free, on-street parking spaces – and wild horses would not make me pay for car parking – I have become lost in the nightmarish road system.

And more often than not, I seem to end up by the bus station.

Have I broken any traffic regulations? I hope not, but in all honesty, it is possible.

Anyway, the council has now decided to undo much of the good work by installing a CCTV camera on one of the bus-only roads. It will no doubt prove to be a gold mine, raising a fortune from all the confused motorists, but I'm not going to be one of them. I think I will be steering clear of West Bromwich for a while.

❒❒❒

MEMORY like a sieve, me. Completely forgot all about Earth Hour on March 19, when we were supposed to turn out our lights as a gesture towards fighting global warming. Never mind, did mine between 1am and 2am on Sunday, to mark the start of British Summer Time. Better late than never.

With Ed Miliband at Sandwell College's Central Campus

The council leader with Yvette Cooper MP, during her visit

With Baggies legends Brendon Batson and Cyrille Regis

Darren, Black Country through and through

DAVID COSGROVE highlights tributes paid to council leader Darren Cooper by people across the political spectrum

'HE was Black Country through and through.' Just one of the heartfelt tributes paid to Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper after his sudden death over the weekend.

The impact of the much-loved politician is clear in the deluge of messages that have been written following his sudden passing.

People from across the political spectrum in the West Midlands joined former Labour Party leaders Ed Miliband, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair in paying tribute to Councillor Cooper, 52, who led the borough's authority for nearly seven years.

Many suggested he was destined for even greater things.

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey said he had 'no doubt' Councillor Cooper was on track to be elected as an MP in the future or become metro mayor of the new West Midlands Combined Authority.

Standout

Mr Blair said the council leader was 'one of Labour's most committed and passionate local government leaders of the last twenty years'.

Current Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said: "His experience, charisma and leadership will be sorely missed. Darren's contribution to Sandwell and the Black Country is immeasurable. A councillor for nearly 25 years and leader of Sandwell Council since 2009, he was one of the most important Labour leaders in Britain. He was a huge talent – he fought for Labour values to get the best for the people that he served so diligently in Sandwell."

Baggies fan Councillor Cooper's close friend and deputy, Steve Eling, said there were numerous standout moments of his Sandwell Council leadership, which began in 2009.

Speaking to a gathering at the official opening of the sports hall named after Joel Richards

He explained that these included his efforts to create new jobs for young people in the borough as part of the Sandwell Guarantee scheme; helping open three new leisure centres under his tenure; and keeping frontline services safe despite crippling Government cuts.

Other highlights of Councillor Cooper's leadership included overseeing the New Square shopping development in West Bromwich and the central role of Sandwell in the new Combined Authority.

Councillor Cooper served on the authority since May 1991 in the Soho and Victoria ward.

Councillor Eling, who has now stepped into the role as leader, said: "Darren was extremely well-respected across the whole of the West Midlands.

"He has overseen a lot of success in Sandwell at an incredibly difficult time of massive budget cuts. He also played a big role working with other leaders around the WMCA. His loss is just massive.

"I'm personally struggling to come to terms with the shock and so is everyone else I've spoken to.

"Although he's been the leader since late 2009 he never became aloof and has always been the same old Darren everybody knows and loves."

Oldbury ward Councillor Mahboob Hussain said he and Councillor Cooper 'were like brothers' and he was devastated by the news. "I have lost somebody that will never be replaced," he said. "It's a difficult time for all of us."

Mr Bailey, who first met Councillor Cooper, a father-of-three, 25 years ago, said: "This is going to leave a massive gap in public life in the area and is a tragedy for his family. I have no doubt that he would've gone on to be either metro mayor or an MP in years to come.

"I would sum up Darren by saying he loved public service, he loved politics and he loved the Black Country.

"He was Black Country through and through. Darren was a man of the people who had talents that set him apart.

"My heartfelt condolences go to his family at what must be an incredibly difficult time for them."

Councillor Cooper hosted numerous big names from the Labour Party during his tenure, including the likes of Yvette Cooper and Ed Miliband.

He also served as chairman of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel.

The region's Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "Darren Cooper cared deeply about the people of Sandwell and the West Midlands.

"His passing is both a shock and a terrible loss. He was a big personality who will be sorely missed.

"He was a friend and as chair of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel consistently gave me invaluable support in my role."

A statement released by Councillor Cooper's beloved West Bromwich Albion said: "We are all shocked and saddened to hear of this news.

"Darren was a huge Baggies fan and a familiar presence at The Hawthorns.

"His passion for the club equalled his passion for serving the local community and our condolences and thoughts are with his wife and family."

Black Country Chamber of Commerce president Ninder Johal said: "Darren was a true public servant who saw not only the local picture but also the bigger regional picture.

"He was able to say things that others wouldn't.

"Despite the public perception of him being left leaning he was also a big supporter of business and the economy. He will be truly missed."

Black Country legend 'Blind Dave' Heeley said it was a 'pleasure to call him a friend'. "I'm stunned. Darren was a nice chap, we had a great relationship. He was a people's man and the right man for leader. He is going to be a very hard act to follow."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Backing for nurses from the Philippines

RE: An article about nurse recruitment at the trust, in which a local councillor seemingly suggested that recruitment in the Philippines might represent quantity over quality. The Trust benefits today from over 100 nursing staff from the Philippines, as well as staff from many other backgrounds and cultures.

We are proud to work with those staff, and all the evidence suggests that they do a great job. There are no quality concerns about our nurses from the Philippines, and to imply that there is, without any evidence, is, at best, foolish, and perhaps insulting to their talents and dedication.

Funding our recruitment plan is straightforward: We currently break even and hiring long term staff is far, far cheaper than temporary staffing. Under the coalition government not enough nurses were trained, so until the end of this Parliament those coming to the UK or returning from retirement will be required, here as elsewhere. We very much hope that that endeavour has local support, from the council, local taxpayers, patients and our staff.

COLIN OVINGTON, CHIEF NURSE
TOBY LEWIS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

Steel away from EU to boost jobs

A LOT of people are asking for more facts about the EU to help decide in the vote.

The closure of steel (Tata Steel) production at Redcar, Scunthorpe, Dalzell and Clydebridge, amounted to the loss of just under 14,000 jobs. Caparo went into administration putting 1,700 jobs at risk. It was agreed that for each steel job lost, it would have a knock on effect of a further three indirect job losses.

The main debate seemed to be why the Government could not 'get round' the EU State Aid rule, which stops government aid to struggling industries. A minister rushed off to Brussels, cap in hand, to see if they would allow our Government to help our steel industry.

Then there are EU Procurement Laws which mean vehicles and ships for our military were going to be made using steel from Norway. Never mind talk of jobs lost away from the EU, think about how many jobs have just been lost by just two stupid EU directives.

MR B K WILLIAMS
Tipton

Millions in cash not answer to autism

IT seems a £10 million scheme aims sufferers of autism die young.

Apparently, even 'high spectrum' (called Asberger's: socially uneasy, not understanding the ways of the world) autism has early death rate; having being diagnosed as such at 60 (now 65). I begin to get worried. I assume that 'classic' autism (known as Kanner's, pronounced Conner's) must have a higher early death rate since the sufferer is more cocooned in his own comfort zone.

So why? Asberger's, the less obvious of the two, puts a tremendous strain on a sufferer, not able to express feelings, and until diagnosed, not aware of why. Recent press articles reported that head teachers were being made aware of this. I hope they treat it seriously.

That is where it needs early understanding of the condition and its effects. In fact, one could do worse than making it a 'status symbol'. Then the stresses of later life can be addressed and hopefully life expectancy can increase.

Being a cynic, and on what I have experienced, I do not see the average teacher taking too well at being told how to do their job.

Still, it should not take a £10m scheme to find the problem, just commitment where it matters.

R W WHITE
Wigmore

Real reason IDS resigned

'IDS resigns because George Osborne's too cruel', you couldn't make it up if you tried. IDS is the architect of Universal Credit, a system that's about to plunge thousands of people into an economic Armageddon that will take years to unravel.

Of course it couldn't be that IDS realises the impending doom and the way to abdicate responsibility is resign and point the finger of blame at someone else. But sorry to disappoint you IDS, you've been rumbled.

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

Sweet success to boost funds

NOW the smoke is clearing we can see that the sugar tax is nothing more than a stealth tax and what we are seeing is that by some fiscal shuffling money is being taken from the disabled and given to the rich.

Hundreds of thousands of disabled people are going to have their income cut. So back to the sugar tax; will it cut obesity? Of course not, but it will put more money into the treasury coffers.

S T VAUGHAN

Bias bunkham

I SEE a magistrate has been sacked for 'bias and prejudice'. He dared to suggest a child should be brought up by a mother and father rather than by a same sex couple. The bounder!

This is political correctness gone mad. It takes a man and a woman to produce a child, and that should be good enough to rear the child.

R W WHITE
Wigmore

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Work of unsung heroes is celebrated at awards night

THE work of unsung heroes in Smethwick has been celebrated at annual community awards. More than 100 nominees who give up their time to help the community were thanked for their achievements.

Dignitaries from across Smethwick descended on the Prestige Suite in the town for the Smethwick Community Recognition Awards to celebrate the hard work of volunteers. There were seven different award categories in total.

Councillor Richard Marshall said: "The evening was just a mere snapshot of the great work that goes on within the wonderful community of Smethwick by hundreds of volunteers who work tirelessly to make our community special."

Among the winners was librarian Julie McKirdy BEM, who won the Bob Cohen Outstanding Citizen award – named after the influential community campaigner who died last year.

She said: "This is the first year of the award and I feel so honoured and privileged to have won it."

Abid Hussain won the Good Neighbour award for helping Sandwell residents who have troubles contacting the Pakistani embassy.

Whilst Matthew English, a former student at Queen Alexandra college in Birmingham, won the Outstanding Youth award.

Ash Lewis and Deep Singh won the Outstanding Volunteer awards for their work helping youngsters in the community. The Special Award went to Harley Jean Simpson, who now works for the Albion Foundation.

Jalal Uddin won the Partnership Working award and the Community Project award went to Smethwick in a Stew – which helps feed and give clothes to vulnerable people.

Living wage pledge for all council staff

ALL council staff in Sandwell will be paid at least the National Living Wage after chiefs vowed for equal pay amongst all workers in the borough.

The new living wage, which will imposed on April 1, means nobody will be paid below the rate of £7.20 an hour and workers who currently earn below the living wage will get a pay rise.

In a council cabinet meeting yesterday afternoon, Councillor Steve Eling, deputy leader of Sandwell Council, vowed to see all employees doing the same level of job rewarded with an equal pay package to match.

He said: "The Government has proven time and again that they seek to discriminate against young people, well Sandwell doesn't.

"Legislation compels us to pay the National Living Wage to employees aged 25 or over, but here in Sandwell it will be across the board."

Winning vets taking a bow-wow

Mayor Steve Waltho with Brian Hogan (partner and clinical director at Dudley) and Irish wolfhounds Ealga and Brandan

THEY help every creature from poorly pooches to under the weather hamsters and now a veterinary practice in the Black Country has been named the best in the UK.

Blacks Vets Dudley Hospital have topped the charts for the second year running award in the competition run by the VetHelpDirect.com directory.

The Best UK Vets awarded is presented to the veterinary practice that has been given the most four or five star online reviews by their clients. Blacks Vets in Dudley finished in first place, followed by Blacks branches in Lye, Sedgley, Oldbury and Quinton, following in second, third, fifth and eighth place respectively.

Partner and clinical director Dr Brian Hogan, who was congratulated by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "We are overwhelmed to receive this award for a second time, this really matters to us because it is voted for by pet owners. As you can imagine to have such a high number of four and five star reviews has just blown us away."

VetHelpDirect.com will host a prize giving ceremony for Blacks and their clients next month. The prize includes money towards a staff night out to congratulate the whole team.

The practice is currently offering micro-chipping of dogs, cats and rabbits for £9.99 instead of £24.50.

Savings club to help with festive cash

A NEW savings club is being launched in Wednesbury to help people save up money for Christmas.

The club, a joint initiative between the Friar Park Project and the 6Towns Credit Union, was being launched today, Thursday, by none other than Father Christmas himself at Friar Park Children's Centre, at 11am.

Regular savers in the club will not only be able to save for Christmas but will also be entered into a prize draw with generous cash prizes to further boost their Christmas savings pot.

Regular

Janet Foster, Community Co-ordinator for Friar Park said: "Christmas for most families on Friar Park is a huge event and this is a great opportunity to give families the Christmas they want by saving small amounts of money on a regular basis."

Malcolm Keyte, Business Development Manager for 6Towns Credit Union said: "We are delighted to be able to support this new venture and to encourage more people to start saving towards those important events such as Christmas." For further information contact Janet Foster on 07867 952 774 or email janet@sandwellconsortium.co.uk

Yellow lines to be painted near school

DOUBLE yellow lines will be painted near a school in Great Barr in a bid to boost safety and halt parking problems.

Work will take place close to Greenholm Primary School, in Greenholm Road, following a community campaign.

Ward councillors have been working on the scheme to have them introduced alongside new bollards on nearby verges.

New police custody suite gets its official launch

A MODERN custody suite costing millions of pounds has been officially launched by West Midlands Police.

Police bosses celebrated the launch of the facility in Oldbury which has now become fully operational.

It has been lauded as a huge step-up for custody policing in the area and will greatly improve the efficiency of dealing with criminal suspects.

The suite contains 60 cells, complete with interview rooms and state-of-the-art technology, and custody hub at the centre of the building.

Chief Constable Dave Thompson said: "I am really pleased to have been able to open this facility.

"We have been trying to conduct modern policing in what are essentially out-dated blocks with limited space. On many occasions we end up in a bottleneck situation with not enough space to cater for demand.

Efficient

"Now we have a purpose-built facility in which we will never need to hold up processing. The standard of this suite is absolutely fantastic and it will allow us to run a much more efficient service. The speed with which we can deal with detainees will increase, meaning officers can spend more time on the streets.

"However fantastic the suite is though it's not a great place to spend time in and as well as a place to question and investigate offenders we now have the space to work with those in our care to try to prevent the cycle of offending."

The custody suite has been three years in the planning and took two years to build. It features two floors, the ground being where the 60 cells are housed, spread across five wings, and also interview rooms.

Crime Commissioner David Jamieson with Chief Constable Dave Thompson

An exterior view of the custody suite which has been opened

The top floor features office space with computers where police officers from different stations can carry out work. The suite opened on March 8 and since then around 400 suspects have come through its doors as part of a soft opening.

The facility is the force's first dedicated police custody suite and does not feature a police station.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "This is an important investment for policing in the West Midlands and will bring our custody facilities up to date.

"This is state-of-the-art complex which will ensure West Midlands Police is at the forefront of fighting and preventing crime and keeping people in our communities safe."

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Confusion over council rent charges

Councillor Coughlan at Willenhall Memorial Park where the rate to hire facilities has been in question

COMMUNITY groups have been 'left in tears' after fears they are going to be charged double to use council-run parks and buildings.

Walsall Council has introduced a new charge for people to hire out its facilities which is £12 per hour for a minimum of two hours – twice the rate community groups usually pay.

The authority declared the rate only applied to organisations who wanted to hire facilities for a 'commercial' purpose stating existing users would not be affected.

But because the move has been done without consultation groups have been left confused by the new rate and left concerned they will be priced out of using the facilities. While some have said officers have specifically informed their rates were to be doubled only to be told later that was a 'miscommunication'.

Councillor Sean Coughlan said those using Willenhall Memorial Park had contacted him: "The council has introduced this new commercial rate which means people are effectively paying double. In Willenhall they have a very active friends group as well as the church group who use the building.

"They all do a lot of voluntary work. They said they have been told the rent is going to be doubled. There has been no consultation they have just been told this is what they are going to have. This has really upset people. There needs to be more clarification about who falls into this new category."

Natasha Griffiths, who works in the cafe at Willenhall Memorial Park added: "We had a meeting last week and some people were specifically told their rents increased between 50 and 100 per cent. They later said that was a miscommunication. I just think the council has handled this badly."

Walsall Council has once again stated that existing users will not see rents doubled.

En route for major Minors at open day

MORRIS Minor enthusiasts are invited to attend to an open day event being held in Oldbury.

Classic cars from the British marquee will be on display at car sales group David Manners, which is based in Wolverhampton Road, on April 9.

Midland-based Morris Minor clubs are supporting the event in a bid to revive interest in the car across the Black Country.

Organisers say they are keen to find owners who have versions of the Morris Minor that are in need of restoration.

The day will offer advice and tips on how to get the vehicles on the road again with events running from 1pm to 5pm.

There will also be live music and snacks served up for visitors on the afternoon.

Evening

Joy Clarke, who is helping organise the event, said: "We think that there must be people out there who have Morris Minors which are registered but they aren't on the road.

"If we could help people dust them off and bring them out it would be great."

An annual Classic Mini Open Evening is also being held at the site, which is expected to bring in dozens of Mini enthusiasts.

Preparations are already taking place for the event which is due to be held on July 12.

Joy added: "This event grows each year with the support of the British Mini Club, last year we ran out of space at our Oldbury premises as we had over 150 classic minis in attendance."

Front, Mike Lennon and Jack Weston, with back, Claire Baty, Dave and Sue Boyce and Martin Whitmore from Birmingham Morris Minor Owners Club

Lock-up for pair of fraudsters

A MAN and a teenager who befriended and conned a vulnerable man out of £9,500 have been locked up. The court heard Mohamoud Said from Nechells, Birmingham and a 17-year-old youth, targeted a vulnerable 55-year-old man who has limited mental capacity and lives within sheltered accommodation.

The man told friends he thought he had been a victim of fraud when he received a letter stating a direct debit for a mobile phone contract had been set up without his knowledge.

Said, aged 21, from Chadsmoor Terrace was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court on March 23 to 16 months in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to defraud at the court on February 14. A charge of conspiracy to steal will remain on file. The teenager was sentenced to 12 months in youth detention.

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Flight of fancy as airbus has landed

The Emirates A380 aircraft lands safely at Birmingham Airport following its test flight

THE world's biggest airliner has arrived in Birmingham and begun daily flights. Civic dignitaries joined executives from airline Emirates to celebrate the landmark Easter event – the first time one of the giant double-deckerAirbus A380s will operate from the West Midlands airport.

It follows major investment by Birmingham Airport in lengthening its runway and even building a £1 million new air bridge specially designed so passengers can get off both decks of the Airbus at the same time. And travellers are already voting with their feet – and their wallets – snapping up tickets to fly on the new aircraft.

All the 615 seats on board were sold for Sunday and Monday's flights, with just a handful left for the first two weeks the Airbus is in service from Birmingham.

It will be flying every lunchtime, taking passengers to Emirates giant airport hub in Dubai, with many flying on to other destinations around the world.

Airport boss Paul Kehoe said: "This is a great vote of confidence in the Midlands. Emirates are spending nearly £290 million – with this move. That's what it costs to buy one of these planes, even before all the added extras that Emirates put in."

Dozens of homes set to go up at eyesore site

MORE than 80 homes will be built on a derelict 'eyesore' site in the heart of Oldbury after plans were given the green light.

Outline planning permission has been granted for the 86-home scheme on former industrial land in Mill Lane near Titford Canal, overlooking Langley Green Park.

It has been welcomed by ward councillors who say the site has needed overhauling for years, after a previous planning application fell through due to the financial crash. Developer Willsgrove Developments Limited will confirm the exact layout of the scheme at a later date. But documents submitted as part of the firm's planning package have earmarked 86 homes for the 2.3 hectare site.

Ward councillor Bill Gavan said: "The site has been an eyesore for years. A planning application was granted before the economic crash but that didn't go ahead and it's been an eyesore ever since. I think the developers have got the funding so it's going to go ahead and they are going to be building.

By David Cosgrove

"The site is close to the city with the railway nearby.

"It's good for the area that this is going to be tidied up and good for Langley. I think there will be affordable homes as well which we need. As a ward councillor I don't see any downsides to this at all."

A design and access statement submitted by the developer states: "The development of this brownfield site in the heart of Oldbury seeks to provide a sustainable mix of high quality new homes.

"It aims to have its own identity to create a stronger new neighbourhood, yet reflect local character to integrate it into the existing community."

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Dreaming of a beautiful smile..... Increasing popularity of braces for adults

A beautiful smile improves self-esteem, confidence and gives you the best chance of creating a memorable first impression. In recent years the demand for straightening teeth with braces has risen considerably with more and more adults seeking treatment.

Braces are more invisible , more comfortable and much quicker, sometimes taking only a few months.

Dr. Tariq Mahmood of Divine Dentistry gives the following reasons for this trend:

1. A greater awareness of looking good and looking younger. A great smile is an essential first step.
2. Improvements in the range and type of braces have made braces more comfortable, fast and almost invisible.
3. Adults are keeping their teeth for much longer and want to look younger with a great smile.
4. Some types of treatment may not have been available when they were children and so they missed out.
5. It can make you look younger.

Newer types of braces are far less visible, more comfortable and often faster. Many patients can experience a great improvement in as little as six months with more complicated cases taking longer.

Dr. Mahmood has also noticed an increase demand from parents wanting private braces for their children. Treatment for children starts from £100 per month and is often available immediately.

We have recently opened two new treatment rooms on the first floor. upstairs for orthodontic and Implant treatment.

"Dr Mahmood has practised for over 25 years at Asden House in West Bromwich. If you would like to have a free, no obligation consultation please book an appointment and quote express offer. 0121 500 6104
Alternatively book online and visit www.divinedentistry.co.uk to see a large selection of his work and patient testimonials."

Free consultation.

Dear Tariq, just a few lines to say a big thank you: my outlook about dentist visits have changed so much and its because of you. It took a lot for me to come to see you but I need not of worried, I asked what could be done, then thought there would be nothing you could do, you gave me two options and I chose one and was over the moon, you are kind, calm and reassuring.

Love Deborah

"Having always been a bit self-conscious about my crooked teeth, I decided to look into having them straightened; I met with Dr Mahmood, and he then talked me through the process and my options in detail (Damon braces had been recommended, in my case). A year or so later and my smile is much improved. No more of those anxious-looking, tight-lipped grins of the old photos for me - and my confidence has definitely been given a boost. If you feel there is room for improvements - and if it's within your means - I would say, don't hesitate. I am very happy with the results and people have told me that it was worth every penny. Cheers, Tariq and Co."

Lee Stokes, West Bromwich

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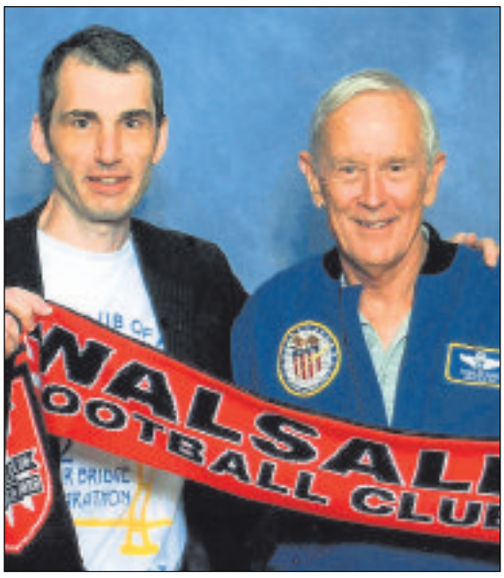
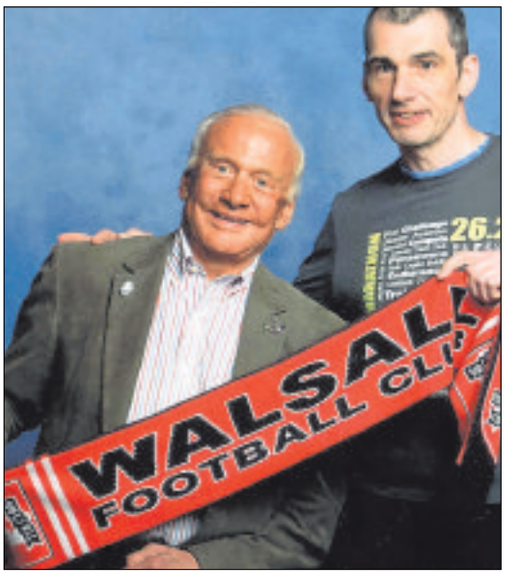


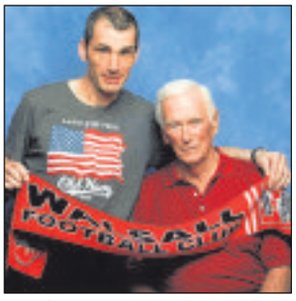
Charles Duke, who was the 10th to walk on the lunar surface

Apollo 14's Ed Mitchell, number six out of the remaining eight ex-astronauts

Alan Bean, fourth on the moon in Apollo 12 and he was involved in Skylab



Mark with Buzz Aldrin, now 86, the second man on the moon


The Saddlers fan with Eugene Cernan – the last moonwalker, from 1972

Fan's over the moon

A SADDLERS super fan's mission to get every man who has walked on the moon to pose with a Walsall scarf is almost complete.

Mark Dabbs was told by friends that his plan was 'sheer lunacy' but persisted in the hope that one day he could say 'the Saddlers have conquered the moon'.

In all, 12 astronauts completed moon-walks, eight of who are still alive and Mark has already 'scarfed' six of them. He said: "I'm a Black Country football fan with an ambition that's simply out of this world. I am on a quest to bestow the handful of astronauts who have walked the moon's surface with Walsall FC scarves."

Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, Alan Bean, Eugene Cernan, Pete Conrad, Charles Duke, James Irwin, Edgar Mitchell, Harrison 'Jack' Schmitt, David Scott, Alan Shepherd and John Young are the 12 astronauts who have walked on the moon.

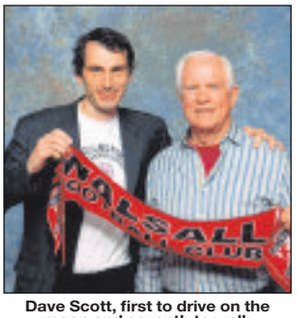
Mr Dabbs claims Aldrin was the first of the six to become a Saddlers fan and he has since been joined by Bean, Cernan, Duke, Mitchell and Scott. He is now tracking down the final two moonwalkers, John Young and Jack Schmitt, to complete his unusual collection.

Irwin, Armstrong, Scott and Conrad all passed away before Mr Dabbs had the chance to drape them with his now famous Saddlers scarf.

But it's not just astronauts Mr Dabbs has been after as he released a book last year entitled 'Travels With My Scarf' where he travelled around the world attempting to convert famous celebrities into Saddlers fans.

He managed to snare Joan Collins, Leslie Nielsen, fight legend Roberto Duran, Star Trek's William Shatner and even boxing superstar Mike Tyson.

The book was launched to raise money for St Giles Hospice based in Staffordshire.


Dave Scott, first to drive on the moon and seventh to walk

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£3.2m to help victims

MORE than £3 million will be spent on helping victims of crime, the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has announced.

The region's PCC David Jamieson has agreed a new £3.2m funding package to support victims of crime. The cash will be spent on several schemes across the West Midlands that the Commissioner said will help him achieve the key parts of the Police and Crime Plan.

They include a £59,078 grant for Crisis Point, a service giving practical and emotional support to victims of sexual abuse in Walsall and Wolverhampton. There will also be a £50,000 grant to West Midlands IDVA Service, which supports high-risk victims and survivors of domestic violence.

And Victim Support will receive just over £1m to support all victims of crime at first assessment. Victim Support helps up to 23,000 victims a year in the West Midlands. Across the country the group has around 1,100 staff across England and Wales.

Much of their work is to support and guide our 3,000 volunteers who do most of the work of supporting victims and some witnesses. A £1m grant will be given to Birmingham Youth Promise employment scheme. The knife bin scheme run by West Midlands Police will receive £10,000, with the aim to get a bin in each authority area.

Hawk Construction is to get £20,000 helping ex-offenders find work, while £40,000 will be given to a small project funds to help community groups across the region. Among others, the funds will benefit victims of domestic violence, those who have suffered sexual abuse and businesses that have been hit by cyber crime.

The money will also be invested in projects that help offenders turn their backs on a life of crime.

Thousands raised to help military cause

Patrick Hogan from Norton House, second from left, with, from left, Brendon Manders, Ben Heath, Cheryl Maybury and Sharna Maybury from Stewart Miller & Peter James Insurance, based in Oldbury

A BLACK Country-based insurance broker has raised more than £2,000 for a charity which supports injured service personnel and their families.

Staff at Stewart Miller & Peter James Insurance have raised the funds for SSAFA Norton House, which provides practical and emotional support to the families of injured personnel undergoing treatment. The charity, which has seven bedrooms, is based in Selly Oak and is only a few minutes drive from Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

It offers families a bright and spacious place. Stewart Miller & Peter James Insurance workers raised £2,300 in total.

The Oldbury-based insurance brokers, a supporter of the charity for several years, raised the money through donations by staff in return for not wearing work uniform on Fridays.

For details on the SSAFA and Norton House, visit www.ssafa.org.uk

Snapshots of life in the urban oasis at valley

THESE are two scenic images of wildlife captured in their natural beauty at a Black Country nature reserve.

Described as an 'urban oasis' by the RSPB, Sandwell Valley Park Farm is full of all kinds of animals.

The evidence for this claim can be seen with these photographs by amateur photographer William Gray.

Using his Sony SLT A77 Mark 2, keen photographer William, aged 61 from Harborne, visits the park around three to four times a month and combines his love of wildlife with his photography hobby. In these pictures, he has captured foxes and an owl.

William said: "I'm a keen bird watcher and since retiring have tried to become more involved in mixing photography and wildlife.

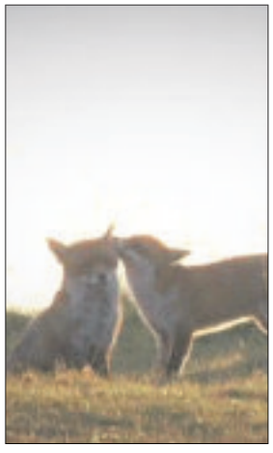
"I'm by no means an expert but thoroughly enjoy taking pictures of all kinds of animals, and at Sandwell Valley there is plenty to photograph.

Positioned

"I've seen the pair of foxes before around the same early evening time. They make a great picture positioned just before the sun is setting.

"Taking a picture of the owl was by pure chance. I was walking by and could see something moving in the hole, I looked a bit closely and the owl was peacefully resting there. I really enjoy Sandwell Valley Park Farm, there is so much to do and see. It's quite surprising how beautiful it is considering the industrial nature of its surroundings."

In January at least two rare species of bird, the smew and oystercatcher, were spotted at the nature reserve following the unusually wet and warm winter.



Foxes at play just before dusk

The owl captured on camera in a tree

City hotel opens its doors

BIRMINGHAM'S newest four-star hotel opened its doors to its first guests this week after a £50 million redevelopment of the former 1960s Auchinleck House office block at Five Ways.

The Park Regis Birmingham is also the first hotel opened by the brand in Europe, adding to its hotels in cities like Dubai, Singapore and Sydney.

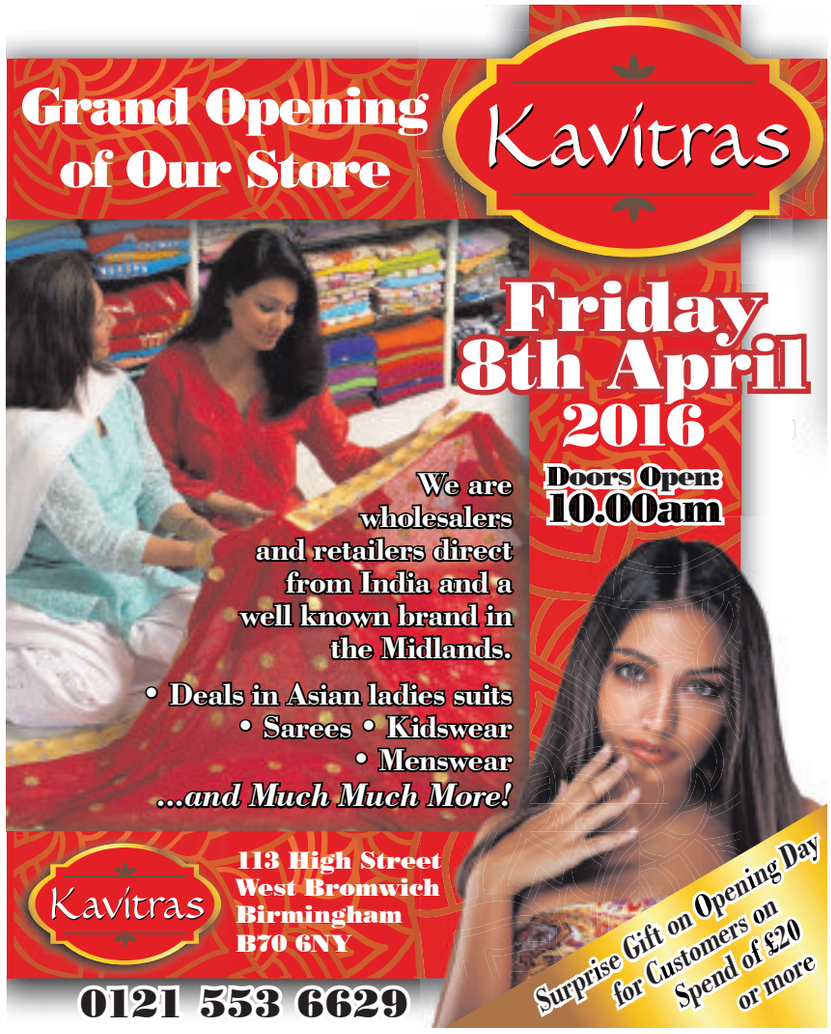
The transformation of the building has created 253 bedrooms, two junior suites and the largest presidential suite in the city.

Park Regis Birmingham aims to become a destination for both leisure and business travellers, with a pair of restaurants.

Its fourth floor '1565' restaurant and bar is home to one of the city's largest outdoor terrace spaces.

Rofuto, its 16th floor Japanese eatery, is a concept by former Ivy head chef Des McDonald.

At 137 ft in the air, Rofuto and its accompanying cocktail lounge and sake bar Kurabu will offer panoramic views across the city.



Big Apple Mel gets to core of holiday health

By Smethwick fitness guru Mel Carpenter

EASTER is here and some of you may or may not be going away – I will be with my family in New York City on the holiday of a lifetime!

Mel Carpenter

Now, it's hard enough keeping to a workout schedule when you're at home but what do you do when you are away? Well, never fear, help is here! There are a few things you can do and this is what I what I will be doing while I'm away:

1. Workout in your hotel. I am very lucky that the hotel I am staying in has a gym with a fair bit of equipment. I plan to visit the gym at least every other day while I'm on my trip to do a short 20 – 30 minute workout.

If you're not staying in a hotel or it doesn't have a gym, then there are a lot of free workouts available on YouTube, designed with limited space and minimum/no equipment needed. I follow a company called Fitness Blender on YouTube and they have every workout imaginable for every fitness level!

2. Take a local class/visit a gym. If you don't feel like you are disciplined enough to workout alone or you usually take classes, then search for a class in the area where you are staying. I've already identified four classes that I want to/may attend by using Google and the postcode of the hotel.

3. Walk Everywhere! Most people carry smartphones with them nowadays so download an app like My Fitness Pal and log your walks! You'll be more motivated if you can see how many steps/KMs/Miles you're clocking up! I have a Fitbit and so it automatically logs how much walking you're doing and syncs it to my phone.

4. Keep a Food Diary. Even if you are planning to relax your eating while you are away, its still a good idea to keep a log of what you are eating. This will help you to not overindulge so much.

You can still enjoy yourself on your holiday, without doing too much damage and undoing all of that great work! Have fun, I know I will be!

FOCUS ON SMETHWICK AND BEARWOOD

Chiefs in pledge on drive to tackle air pollution

BOSSES at Sandwell Council insist they are working hard to bring down emissions levels on the borough's busiest roads, including at Bearwood hotspots.

A study two years ago suggested toxic fumes were putting people's health at risk in 11 traffic hotspots. Recommended levels of nitrogen dioxide were being exceeded in these areas.

It sparked fears about the impact the levels of pollution in the air are having on people's health but council bosses stressed that they are taking action to try and bring levels down.

A further detailed study has been carried out along Bearwood Road – one of the areas that is of most concern – to try and tackle the issue there. An 'ivy wall' has also been installed at Bearwood Primary School to try and absorb some of the pollution in the air. Bosses also said they were hopeful emission-spouting buses would be upgraded soon and that they were looking at ways to ease congestion along the busy Bearwood Road.

Roads that were above the limit in 2014 included the All Saints Way/Expressway and Trinity Way/Kenrick Way areas in West Bromwich, Oldbury Ringway and Birmingham Road in Oldbury, Bearwood and Gorsty Hill in Blackheath.

But Sandwell Council

By Richard Guttridge

leader Darren Cooper said experts were working hard to keep the air clean in the borough.

He said: "Improving air quality in Sandwell is a key part of our work to improve public health. Every council is required by law to review and assess air quality in its area. Defra praised our air quality report, which related to 2014, as an example of best practice.

"Sandwell is one of seven councils of the Defra-funded West Midland Low Emission Towns and Cities Programme. The four Black Country boroughs are currently consulting on proposed air quality planning guidelines.

"This means developers and applicants having to think more about things like travel, sustainable transport and electric charging points for 'green' vehicles."

Bears back for more fun next year

Anya Sanchez seen with all the Bearwood Bear Trail bears which were made for the event last May

THE popular Bearwood Bear trail which attracted more than 1,000 people will return next year, organisers have announced. Thirty 3ft grizzlies were hidden around the town in a bid to capture people's imaginations.

They were designed and decorated by 30 community groups based in and around the town.

Residents were also invited to place their own smaller cardboard cubs in the gardens and windows of their homes.

Organiser We Are Bearwood, which is currently busy getting ready for the Bearwood Street Festival in September, has now revealed it is planning to repeat the successful bear themed-event next year.

After the trail was first launched in May last year visitors flocked to follow the mile-long route which began at Lightwoods Park, carried on onto the High Street, along Abbey Road before finally heading through Warley Woods.

Sophie sets sights on Kilimanjaro

Sophie, left, with friends during a collection in Cardiff

A UNIVERSITY student from Bearwood is hoping to take her charity fundraising efforts to the top of the world when she climbs Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Bearwood born and bred Sophie King, aged 20, relocated to Cardiff University to study journalism two years ago.

She has been a staunch supporter of the Worldwide Cancer Research charity and hopes to raise more cash for the cause in the summer by climbing the world's tallest free-standing mountain.

Sophie said: "Unfortunately, cancer will affect most of us during our lifetime and without the means of funding scientists will struggle to continue their research. I hope that with me, you can help tackle this disease by making a donation, small or big to my Every Day Hero Page."

The page is available on https://k16cardiff.everydayhero.com/uk/sophie-7

The charity funds research into any type of cancer across the world and helps scientists gain further knowledge to tackle the deadly disease and gain a global perspective.

Taxi drivers hit out at bus lane cameras

SANDWELL'S first bus lane cameras will be installed to capture motorists using lanes illegally through West Bromwich.

But private hire taxi drivers have hit out the move saying it causes 'discrimination' between cab drivers as Hackney Carriages will still be allowed to use the lane.

Council officials want to enforce a ban on the stretch of New Street outside Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus with CCTV cameras.

Around 3,000 cars have been using New Street, past Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus.

Sandwell Council wants to enforce a ban already in place and say the cameras will deter motorists flouting the ban. The new proposal will see only Hackney Carriages allowed through the zone on New Street, in a move cabinet member for highways and environment councillor Maria Crompton has described as 'best for public safety'.

A taxi pulls up on New Street in West Bromwich

Congestion

She said: "I believe that Hackney Carriages entering the bus only street can do so without significantly increasing the number of cars that add to the congestion, which isn't the case for private hire vehicles.

"There are fewer Hackney Carriages in comparison, and private hire vehicles have the advantage of a pre-booking system where they can pick up customers from any point, rather than use the taxi ranks assigned for Hackney Carriages. Pedestrian use of the town is also increasing following the opening of the Sixth Form College, the letting of new retail units in New Square and the completed refurbishment of Queens Square.

"The safety of the public has been the main factor in this decision, so vehicle traffic should only be permitted to travel through the bus and cycle only lane if the benefits to the public outweigh the many disadvantages of additional through traffic. Permitting Hackney Carriages only is the absolute right decision."

Andrew Cashmore, aged 46, has been involved in the taxi industry for 18 years and owner of Andy's Cars West Bromwich for the last seven.

"He said: "It's complete discrimination against private hire firms, there's no way around it. They say this is for the benefit of the public, but they are the ones that are going to be directly affected by this decision.

"Through no fault of our own taxi fairs will increase for customers, which could long term have a huge detrimental affect and drive custom away."

"Dudley taxis are allowed to use bus lanes.

"All this is going to is increase fairs, journey times and make it more difficult for the customer. I will be appealing this decision."

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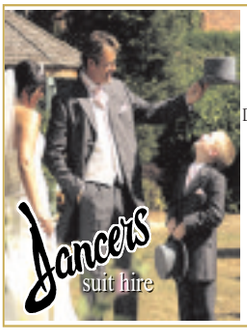

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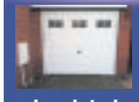

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High Green, with St Peter's Church in distance, in 1837

Lichfield Street circa 1846, with its Tudor buildings

The corner of Peel Street and Salop Street circa 1870

The Old Barrel inn, in Wolverhampton, from the 1870s

Book offering a glimpse of everyday life from city's past, is no accident

PEOPLE knocked down on their way to work, falling from ladders and boilers exploding – just some of the bizarre accidents from the 19th century included in a new book.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Karl Aston

The novel is the work of Jane Smith, aged 69, from Perton, who has a keen interest in local history.

Three-and-a-half years ago someone asked her if there was anything apart from her usual area of expertise – Worfield in Shropshire – that she would like to study. She replied that she would like to study accidents and the seed of her book was sown. Her book is titled Accidents: Nineteenth Century Accidents In Wolverhampton, and Jane explained why she wanted to write it.

"Accidents happen to ordinary people, on an ordinary day, in an ordinary town," she said, "And when they do, the description of what happened is recorded and provides a snapshot of life as it was. It tells of people knocked down on their way to work, of cows stuck in shops, of steam boilers exploding. This is history up close – we are like eavesdroppers on people's lives."

The book on accidents in Wolverhampton is more than 500 pages long and is being stocked by Amazon.

She said: "My interest is not in the accident per se, but in the light the accident throws on everyday life. Such as the story of the lamplighter who was up a ladder lighting a gas lamp when the ladder was caught by a passing donkey cart. That is the story of a non-fatal accident which creates a strong visual image of a time gone by.

"Then there was Mrs Burrows, aged 70, minding her own business on Snow Hill in 1841 when two butchers from Birmingham were racing up the hill on their way home.

"One of them knocked Mrs Burrows over and killed her, but the riders weren't held to blame, the horse was, and a fine was duly placed on him or her."

The 19th century was a time of great change in manufacturing, transport and housing, said Jane, and with those changes came challenges, which often translated into people making mistakes. Jane said: "Sometimes people didn't understand the technology, they took risks, such as at Rough Hills Pit in 1861, when the head engineer was notified that there was a leak in a boiler.

"But rather than taking the boiler out of service for a proper repair, the head engineer fills the crack with wooden wedges and hemp and the boiler is put back into work. The explosion kills two men immediately.

Accidents: Nineteenth Century Accidents In Wolverhampton is published by Share Our Past Ltd and is available for £17.50.

Jane Smith, of Perton, with her book on accidents in Wolverhampton

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Annie preview – Page 21

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Sun at 1pm and 6.30pm, £25.70 - £35.70
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Supreme Queen: Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Adele
Fri at 6.30pm, Sat at 6.30pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Big Ups
Sat at 7.30pm,
The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham, B5 4EG.
Call 0121 632 6756

Muse
Sat at 6.30pm,
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Overkill
Tue at 7pm,
The Rainbow, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

The Counterfeit Stones: Rolling Stones Tribute
Fri at 9pm, £13 - £15
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

JAZZ & BLUES

John Law's New Congregation
Fri at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Laurence Jones
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

King Pleasure And The Biscuit Boys
Thu at 9.30pm, £5
The Jam House, Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Room 4 The Blues
Sun at 4pm, Free
Dog & Doublet, Wolverhampton WV1 1RD
Call 01902 423805

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Mark Padmore And Paul Lewis Perform Schubert's Schwanengesang
Sun at 3pm, £9.50 - £35
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Dame Mitsuko Uchida In Recital
Thu at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £35
Birmingham Town Hall, Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Rick Ross
Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Krept And Konan
Wed at 7pm, £13
The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

John Wildwood and friends
Sun,
Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

Open Mic Night with Tony Wall
Weds at 8.30pm
Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

COMEDY

Rob Beckett: Mouth Of The South
Sat at 8pm, £12 - £14
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Russell Kane: Right Man, Wrong Age
Fri at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Brian Conley: Alive And Dangerous
Sat at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Jonny Cole: A Black Country Night Out
Fri at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

THEATRE

Heartbeat
Fri at 7.30pm,
Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Annie
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

How Lion Became King Of Tinga Tinga Land
Fri at 2pm, Sat at 11am,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Trainspotting
Fri at 6pm and 8pm, Sat at 6pm and 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Rehearsal For Murder
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Rotter's Club
Sat at 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Best Thing
Wed at 7.30pm,
Thu at 7.30pm,
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE.
Call 01902 321321

Mary Poppins
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm and 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm and 7.30pm, £25.55 - £30.60
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Three Keepers
Tue at 2pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

ART GALLERIES

Kelly Mark: 108 Leyton Ave
Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Into The Woods
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Big Ceramics: Discover Clay On A Monumental Scale
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Andrea Hannon: The House Is Still Named After Him
Fri at 10am, Sat at 10am, Mon at 10am, Tue at 10am, Wed at 10am, Thu at 10am,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Laura Lancaster
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Jan Vanriet The Music Boy
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Willard Wigan Homecoming Exhibition
Fri - Thurs
Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Janet Mendelsohn: Varna Road
Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Mental Spaces
Fri at 9am - 8.30pm, Sat,
Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Wendy Ramshaw's Room Of Dreams
Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Quarto
Fri, Sat,
Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

The Birmingham And Midland Pastel Society: The Art Of Pastels
Fri at 10am - 4pm, Sat at 10am - 4pm, Mon at 10am - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 4pm, Wed at 10am - 4pm, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Free
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

OTHER EVENTS

Disney On Ice: Silver Anniversary Celebration
Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Antiques For Everyone Spring Fair
Thu at 11am - 6pm,
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Gadget Show Live 2016
Fri at 9am - 6pm, Sat at 9am - 6pm, Sun at 9am - 6pm,
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Bedlam Festival 2016
Wed,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Egg-Cellent Easter
Fri at 9.30am - 5pm, Sat at 9.30am - 5pm, Sun at 9.30am - 5pm, Mon at 9.30am - 5pm, Tue at 9.30am - 5pm, Wed at 9.30am - 5pm,
Drayton Manor Theme Park, Near Tamworth, B78 3TW.
Call 0844 472 1960

Family Saturday
Sat at 1pm - 4pm,
Ikon Gallery, B'ham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Lesley's new role as horrid Hannigan

Lesley Joseph as Miss Hannigan in the hit musical Annie, which is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Photo: Paul Coltas

BIRDS of a Feather star Lesley Joseph will turn from Essex maneater into gin-soaked American orphanage boss when ever-popular musical Annie arrives in Wolverhampton next week.

The actress, who found fame as snob neighbour Dorien in the hit sitcom co-starring Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson, is now taking on the role of Miss Hannigan, the spiteful harridan who attempts to cheat poor little orphan Annie after she becomes the favourite orphan of billionaire Daddy Warbucks.

Set in 1930s New York, the show features such popular songs as Tomorrow, It's the Hard-Knock Life and Easy Street.

Lesley Joseph is relishing her role when the show is staged at the Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 9.

"This is a brand new production of Annie, and it's very exciting," she says. "I get to be very horrible but I try to make my Miss Hannigan a little bit vulnerable because she's got a rotten life, she's stuck in an orphanage with no money looking after kids in the middle of The Depression.

"It is, however, a fun family musical and that's what I love – you can bring your granny or your grandchildren, and the little girls all want to be Annie."

Perfect for inspiration

SHE made her name with the group Fairground Attraction and their BRIT awarding winning 1988 number one hit Perfect, the first in a hat-trick of BRITs for the Scottish singer Eddi Reader has spent the biggest part of her life working as a solo artist.

She is one of Scotland's best loved singers and sang in 2004 at the opening of the Scottish Parliament, and was awarded an MBE for outstanding contributions to the arts in the New Year's honours list of 2006

Reader is back on the road with a solo tour that will reach Birmingham's Glee Club on Sunday, April 3, when she is looking forward to showcasing her favourites from a lifetime's worth of songs.

"I don't have secrets," she says. "I love songs and stories. I am inspired by life around me.

"I love artists like Louis Armstrong. I identify with him. There are so many brilliant human beings past and present. Kids inspire me most of all, they remind me of living in the moment."

"When I left home, I was full of adventure and wanderlust. I met like-minded people and we all conjoined on a river bank in the South of France.We ate together with the money we all made by presenting our talents in the streets of Avignon, Nimes and Uzes. It taught me about sharing, listening and selling a song without a microphone.

"I never had a plan. I just aligned myself to songs I liked and they put me in all kinds of situations."

The Final Straw for Otway and Barrett

HERE are some of the week's gig highlights:

Tonight (Thu) veterans John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett bring their Final Straw Tour to Bilston's Robin 2.

Tomorrow Montreal rock band The Besnard Lakes bring their Pink Floyd-like soundscapes to the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath.

New Yorkers the Big Ups play Birmingham city centre's Sunflower Lounge on Saturday.

Jim Jones brings his latest band, The Righteous Mind, for raw rock at the Hare and Hounds on Tuesday, then psychedelic rockers The Vryll Society are at the same above-the-pub venue on Wednesday.

Comedy nights spring into action

THE 'Mouth of the South' – AKA comedian Rob Beckett – is coming to Shropshire and Staffordshire on his spring tour.

The toothy blond comic, known for his appearances on Mock The Week and 8 Out Of 10 Cats, is at The Place at Oakengates, Telford, on Saturday before returning to the region at Stafford Gatehouse on April 16, Burton's Brewhouse Arts Centre on May 19 and at Lichfield Festival on July 4.

Humour has a regional flavour at Wolverhampton Grand tomorrow night (Fri) with a Black Country Night Out featuring Jonny Cole, The Fizzogs, Dandy and The Ronaldos.

Familiar faces in murder mystery

FOLLOWING his decade-long success with The Agatha Christie Theatre Company, theatre impresario Bill Kenwright has created The Classic Thriller Theatre Company.

Its first production, Rehearsal For Murder, is staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 9. The cast of familiar faces from TV include Ben Nealon (from Soldier Soldier), Robert Daws (Poldark), Susan Penhaligon (Bouquet of Barbed Wire), Robert Duncan (Drop The Dead Donkey), Lucy Dixon (Waterloo Road), Amy Robbins (The Royal) and Steven Pinder (Brookside).

SATURDAY'S TV APRIL 2

CHOICE

Patricia Routledge

Beatrix Potter with Patricia Routledge
(Channel 4, 8pm)
Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter, this documentary sees Patricia Routledge following in the footsteps of the Edwardian publishing sensation. She discovers what fired the author's imagination and where her love and understanding of animals was born. As an actress, Patricia played Beatrix on stage in the 1990s. In her present role as patron of the Beatrix Potter Society, and with access to rare drawings, letters and artefacts held at the V&A Archive, she discovers the woman behind the myth. Previously seen on More4.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** MasterChef. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** Now You See It. **5.50** BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 Can't Touch This. A pest controller, a "dosey-do" dancer, and a former member of a boy-band are among the 16 contestants battling their way through a giant obstacle course, in the hopes of laying hands on the goodies within. Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo preside as the competitors tear through the prize-filled gauntlet, which culminates in a giant leap of faith that could net them the grand prize. Narrated by Sue Perkins.

7.00 The Voice UK. The semi finals arrive, along with the nail-biting tension associated with another round of live performances. The remaining contestants must once master their nerves and take to the stage to determine whether the tutelage they've received at the hands of Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson, Paloma Faith and Boy George has paid off. As was the case last week, the identities of those would-be stars progressing through to the grand final will be decided by the viewers at home, who are encouraged to take part in a public vote to determine which act will leaving the contest.

9.05 Casualty. Connie decides to call off her romance with Jacob, but has second thoughts when he gets trapped in a partially collapsed building. Meanwhile, Ethan shares his bad news with Lily.

9.55 The National Lottery Live. The winning numbers are revealed.

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield and Norwich City v Newcastle United at Carrow Road; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Film: Salvage. (2009) A woman searches for her missing daughter when a deadly creature hides out in her neighbourhood. Horror, starring Neve McIntosh.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: I Remember Mama. (1948) **8.40** The Women's Football Show. (R) **9.10 Film:** A Distant Trumpet. (1964) **11.00** Natural World. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. (R) **1.00** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **1.30** Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.20 Film:** Easter Parade. (1948) Romantic musical, with Fred Astaire and Judy Garland. **4.00** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R)

6.00 Gardeners' World. Monty Don gets to work on his wildlife garden, ensuring there are plenty of plants in flower for early pollinators. Plus, Carol Klein visits a shaded yet thriving garden. (R)

6.30 Bake Off: Creme de la Creme. Tom Kerridge welcomes three teams of pastry chefs to the first heat of this contest. They are challenged to make more than 100 perfect miniature pastries in three hours for judges Benoit Blin, Cherish Finden and Claire Clark to inspect and taste. Contestants must then reinvent the apple crumble as a showpiece dessert, complete with a towering edible sculpture. (R)

7.30 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan joins a group of Bushmen in Botswana's Kalahari Desert to learn their ancient secrets for surviving on foot among wild lions. They teach him how to make fire, find honey, and gather water from desert plants, and the filmmaker watches as they hunt with poisoned arrows and track predatory lions. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Capt Mainwaring and the platoon offer to help Pte Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm – but their well-meaning efforts end in predictable chaos. (R)

9.00 John Le Mesurier: It's All Been Rather Lovely. A portrait of the prolific actor's life and career, from his turbulent marriage to Hattie Jacques to his role as Sergeant Wilson in the wartime sitcom Dad's Army. (R)

10.00 Film: Quartet. (2012) Three former singers' plans for a fundraising concert for their retirement home are disrupted by the arrival of a famous diva. Comedy drama, with Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly.

11.35 Film: The Lady. (2011)

1.40 This Is BBC Two. **5.45** Great British Garden Revival. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather.; **12.29** Regional Programme. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.30** The Chase. (R) **3.35** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **4.00 Film:** Nanny McPhee. (2005)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed!

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The double-act take their weekend showcase away from the confines of the studio, setting up shop on the deck of a cruise ship in Barcelona for their series finale. This week, The Hobbit star James Nesbitt takes the helm as guest announcer, while TV personality and pop star Peter Andre gets to Singalong Live with his most famous hit, Mysterious Girl. The culprit is finally unveiled in Who Shot Simon Cowell?, and tennis star Andy Murray receives a grilling from precocious mini-presenters Little Ant and Dec. The hosts enter ITV's infamous Cube for one last round of Ant v Dec, and one unsuspecting passenger receives a huge surprise. Plus, a lucky audience member is given a chance to Win the Ads, and the Geordie duo round off the with an all-singing, all-dancing End of the Show Show. Last in the series.

8.30 You're Back in the Room. Former motorcycle racer Carl Fogarty and ex-Towie star Joey Essex join Phillip Schofield and illusionist Keith Barry for the hypnotism game show.

9.35 The Jonathan Ross Show.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: Hot Fuzz. (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Freeride World Tour. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. The Bahrain Grand Prix third practice session. **2.05** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Doncaster and Kempton Park. **3.00** Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Qualifying Live. The Bahrain Grand Prix qualifying session (Start-time 4.00pm). **5.30** Speed with Guy Martin. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. The documentary series exploring the mysteries behind bizarre climatic conditions continues, this time focusing on the weather's most colourful mysteries. Among the natural marvels highlighted are the top of a black volcano, and the bottom of a "rainbow" river.

8.00 Beatrix Potter with Patricia Routledge. Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter, this documentary sees actress Patricia Routledge following in the footsteps of the Edwardian publishing sensation. Previously seen on More4.

9.00 Film: Identity Thief. (2013) Premiere. A con-woman acquires an executive's credit card numbers, and lives a life of luxury at his expense. The outraged victim sets out on a mission to track down the fraudster and bring her to justice personally – resulting in them travelling on a disastrous road trip across America together. Comedy, with Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, Jon Favreau and Amanda Peet.

11.15 Film: Sliver. (1993) A book editor living in an apartment block begins an affair with the owner and is drawn into a series of murders. Erotic thriller, starring Sharon Stone and William Baldwin.

1.10 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Holly drives to the airport to find Robbie. (R) **3.20** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.15** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. **5.10** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. **5.25** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** The Fairly OddParents. **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Rookies & Raids: A Police Interceptors Special. (R) **2.25** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **3.20** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **4.20** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **5.15** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R)

6.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a navy intelligence commander responsible for tracking the movements of a Venezuelan politician disappears.

7.00 NCIS: New Orleans. Two US Navy foremen are murdered at a Naval Branch health clinic, and with a little help from Brody's mother Olivia, the team discovers the two dead men had been tasked with delivering a heart for a transplant operation. The planned recipient was a skilled Dapra programmer with a rare blood type, but the killers made sure to ruin the procedure by putting a bullet through the organ before making their escape. However, when the heart in question turns out to be a decoy, the team begins to suspect the culprits may have stolen the real one for a criminal with a heart defect from the FBI's most wanted list. Naval crime drama, guest starring Annie Potts.

8.00 NCIS. The team uncovers a fraudulent charity that preys on those searching for missing military personnel while investigating the murder of a retired Master Sergeant.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, including Hull City v Bristol City and Brighton & Hove Albion v Burnley.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. A round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, including Burton Albion v Bury, Shrewsbury Town v Wigan Athletic and Mansfield Town v Northampton Town.

10.30 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes. (R)

11.25 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Treasures of the Indus **8.00** Human Planet **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** TOTP2: 80s Special **12.00** Boy George and Culture Club: Karma to Calamity **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1981 **1.35** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.10** One-Hit Wonders at the BBC **3.10** Sounds of the 70s **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.35** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **1.30** Scorpion **2.25 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **3.25** FYI Daily **3.30 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **4.25** Britain's Got More Talent: Top 10 Comedy Moments **5.30 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **6.30** FYI Daily **6.35 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **7.35 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **8.35** FYI Daily **8.40 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.45 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **2.35** Tinie Tempah: The Hot Desk **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3
1.25 FYI Daily **1.30 Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **2.15** A Touch of Frost **4.25 Film:** Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Inspector Morse **12.25** Blue Murder **1.55** Doctor in the House **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
3.15 Film: The Rawhide Years (1956) **4.00 Film:** Dr No (1962) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** Dr No (1962) **6.15** The Snooker Mavericks **7.15 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **11.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Long Beach ePrix. **1.30** Hell on Wheels **2.30** Hogan's Heroes **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
1.00 New Girl **1.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00 Film:** 17 Again (2009) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Red (2010) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.20** Gogglebox **4.15** How I Met Your Mother **4.35** Revenge

Film4
1.00 Sister Act (1992) **3.05** Stuart Little (1999) **4.45** Jungle 2 Jungle (1997) **6.45** Adventures in Babysitting (1987) **8.50** Oblivion Interview Special **9.00** Alien (1979) **11.15** The Moth Diaries (2011)

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Contact Lorretta 07968 656634

GREAT BRIDGE
St Peter's Church Hall,
Whitehall Road, @ 5.30pm and 7:30pm
Contact Jodie 07886 426429

WEDNESBURY
Central Methodist Church (Wesley Centre)
Spring Head @ 7.30pm
Contact Tracey 07463 784133

OLDBURY
St James C of E Church,
Shelsley Avenue, @ 7.00pm
Contact Lorraine 07807 355812

OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Kerrie 07923 129816

TUESDAY

★ NEW GROUP OPENS Tuesday 5th April ★

OLDBURY
Warley Baptist Church,
Castle Road East, @ 9.30 am
Contact Julie 07505 084916

OLDBURY
Warley Baptist Church,
Castle Road East, @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Jane 07870 421423

OLDBURY
Church on the Rock,
Warley Road, Rood End @ 9.15am
and 11.15am
Contact Kerrie 07923 129816

WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Road, @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Jodie 07886 426429

WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Leisure Centre,
Moor Street, @ 9.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Pippa 07816 900149

WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Karen 07547 515345

TIPTON
Tipton Christian Church
Waterloo Street, 5.00pm and 7.00pm
Contact Lisa 07514 607650

OLDBURY
Sainsbury's, Freeth Street,
@ 6.00pm & 7.15pm
Contact Ann 07815 643963

DARLASTON
Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ 9.30am, 11.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Lesley 01902 634883

ROWLEY REGIS
Rowley Regis Disability Centre,
26 Rowley Village, B65 9AT @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

BRADLEY
St Martin's Church
Slater Street, @ 9.30am, 5.00pm and 7.00pm
Contact Jodie 07547 771319

WEDNESDAY

WEST BROMWICH
West Bromwich Community Centre,
Gayton Road, @ 9.30am
Contact Jodie 07886 426429

SMETHWICK
Dorothy Parkes Centre,
Church Road, 9.30am 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Melisia 07935 447265

WEDNESBURY
Woods Methodist Church
Coronation Road, Woods Estate, @ 9.30am
Contact Karen 07547 515345

WEDNESBURY
St Barts Church Hall
Bttm Church Hill @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Jenny 0121 556 5909

WEDNESBURY
St Luke's Church, Elwell Street,
Mesty Croft, 7.00pm
Contact Jodie 07751 839830

BLACKHEATH
Blackheath Central Meth Church,
High Street, @ 10.00am, 12.00pm,
5.00pm and 7.00pm
Contact Ann 07815 643963

TIPTON
The Sportsman Pub (Separate entrance),
St. Marks Road, @ 7.00pm
Contact (Miss) Vinny 07412 074954

OLDBURY
The Salvation Army Community Church,
Merton Close (off Pound Road) @ 7.30pm
Contact Stacy 07807 355812

TIVIDALE
St Michael's Church,
Tividale Road, B69 2LQ @ 5.00pm and 7.00pm
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

THURSDAY

TIVIDALE
Ormaston Sandwell Community Academy,
Lower City Road, @ 7.00pm
Contact Sarah 07875 445462

WEST BROMWICH
Stone Cross Library,
Beverley Road @ 9.30am and 11.30am
Contact Lisa 07514 607650

WEDNESBURY
St Barts Church Hall
Bttm Church Hill @ 9.30am
Contact Jenny 0121 556 5909

TIPTON
The Sportsman Pub (Separate entrance),
St. Marks Road, @ 9.00am,
11.00am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact (Miss) Vinny 07412 074954

SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
Thimblemill Road @ 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Michelle 07516 255665

BRANDHALL
Kings Community Church,
Oak Tree Centre, Tame Road
@ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Dawn 07859 010175

WEST BROMWICH
Stone Cross Library,
Beverley Road, @ 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Contact Carole 07854 413929

FRIDAY

SMETHWICK
St Marks Church
Thimblemill Road @ 9.30am
Contact Michelle 07516 255665

ROWLEY REGIS
Rowley Regis Disability Centre,
26 Rowley Village, B65 9AT @ 9.30am
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

SATURDAY

OLDBURY
Bleakhouse Library,
Bleakhouse Road @ 8.00am and 10.00am
Contact Kerrie 07923 129816

OLDBURY
Portway Lifestyle Centre,
Newbury Lane, B69 1HE @ 9.00am and 11am
Contact Kenton 07982 408088

★ NEW GROUP NOW OPEN ★

DARLASTON
Darlaston Sports & Social Club Ltd,
16 The Leys, @ 9.00am
Contact Lesley 01902 634883

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CHOICE

Keeley Hawes

The Durrells (ITV, 8pm)
New series. In 1935, beleaguered Bournemouth mother Louisa Durrell decides to uproot her family and build a new life on the sun-drenched island of Corfu. However, with money problems and four unruly children to care for, even a new start might not be enough to banish her troubles. Period drama, starring Keeley Hawes, Josh O'Connor, Milo Parker, Daisy Waterstone, Callum Woodhouse, James Cosmo, Alexis Georgoulis, Yorgos Karamihos, Anna Savva, Max Befort, Ben Hall, Nick Orestis Chaniotakis, Andrew Bicknell, Graham Seed and Hara Ermidi, based on Gerard Durrell's trilogy of Corfu memoirs, which includes My Family and Other Animals.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Wanted Down Under Revisited. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Secret Britain. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Life in the Air.

6.00 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army and Me. The presenter teaches troubled teenagers how to bake, helps a homeless man who has finally got a roof over his head to move, and is persuaded to perform a rap song.

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. An episode devoted to cattle, in which Matt Baker meets a farmer who got into the business after a fundraising campaign on social media, who discusses the current state of the beef trade. Helen Skelton visits a tannery using traditional methods to produce leather, and Anita Rani meets an artist who paints on vellum. Adam Henson meets another of this year's Countryfile Farming Hero nominees, and Charlotte Smith asks if large indoor dairy herds are a more efficient way of making milk. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team values more decorative objects and rarities.

9.00 Undercover. New series. Legal drama, starring Sophie Okonedo as the director of Public Prosecutions, who uses her position to bring about justice for a murdered activist. With Adrian Lester.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Leicester City v Southampton at the King Power Stadium and Manchester United v Everton at Old Trafford.

11.35 Film: Butterfly on a Wheel. (2007) A couple's daughter is kidnapped by a criminal who forces them into a course of action that will ruin their lives. Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 This Farming Life. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** An Island Parish. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00 Film:** Silk Stockings. (1957) Musical, starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse. **2.55** Flog It! (R) **3.30** Figure Skating. **5.00** The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R)

6.00 The Secret History of My Family. Documentary charting 200 years of social history by exploring different family trees. (R)

7.00 Bletchley Park: Code-Breaking's Forgotten Genius. Mathematician and cryptanalyst Gordon Welchman was one of the original elite codebreakers at Bletchley Park and played a crucial part in the Allies defeating Germany. After the war, he moved to America to work at the heart of the computer revolution and was employed by defence contractor the Mitre Corporation, where he was involved in top-secret research. In this programme, academic John Naughton and former CIA analyst Cynthia Storer examine how Welchman's pioneering work in the field of traffic analysis led directly to today's secret state surveillance, as revealed by whistleblower Edward Snowden. (R)

8.00 Natural Born Winners. The athletes visit Turkey, where they learn oil wrestling from one of the sport's greatest champions. When they watch a match, they realise it is more dangerous than they thought.

9.00 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan travels to Papua New Guinea, where he meets a tribe that lives alongside crocodiles and is taught to hunt the predators with his bare hands. Last in the series.

10.00 Thirteen. Ivy is forced to risk her life and confront her past to save Phoebe, as the Moxam family is plunged into the same horror they faced 13 years previously. Last in the series.

11.00 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. Detectives work closely with the prosecutors to find flashier evidence for the jury. (R)

11.40 Film: Snow Cake. (2005)

1.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** FIA Formula E Championship. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.40** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **3.40** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.10 Film:** The Living Daylights. (1987) James Bond adventure, starring Timothy Dalton.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.40 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as DJ Scott Mills, actress Sunetra Sarker, boxer Anthony Ogogo and TV presenter Johnny Ball pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

8.00 The Durrells. New series. In 1935, beleaguered Bournemouth mother Louisa Durrell decides to uproot her family and build a new life on the sun-drenched island of Corfu. However, with money problems and four unruly children to care for, even a new start might not be enough to banish her troubles. Period drama, starring Keeley Hawes, based on Gerard Durrell's trilogy of Corfu memoirs, which includes My Family and Other Animals.

9.00 Home Fires. New series. The WI of Great Paxford live under a shadow as the Battle of Britain looms. Pat befriends a Czech soldier, but finds independence less enjoyable than expected.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 The Olivier Awards 2016.

12.00 Premiership Rugby Union. **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Live. The Bahrain Grand Prix (Start-time 4.00pm).

6.30 Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Special. Ahead of the new Formula 1 season on Channel 4 this weekend, Guy Martin goes head to head with racing legend David Coulthard in the ultimate test of bike against car. With David in a Red Bull RB8 Formula 1 car and Guy on his Tyco BMW Superbike, the pair race in a series of challenges including a drag race, a brake test, slalom and a full-on circuit race. There's also entertainment in the pit as they compete in physical and mental challenges, testing their fitness and reaction times and exploring the science behind their chosen racing machines. (R)

7.30 Channel 4 News.

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales' waterway adventures. Last in the series.

9.00 Indian Summers. The club holds a fashion show, but the glamorous evening turns ugly when a horrifying attack is made on a guest, with the identity of the culprit a mystery. Ralph takes it upon himself to play detective and bring the perpetrator to justice himself, but the truth turns out to be more terrible than he could have imagined and threatens to leave his political career in tatters. Elsewhere, Sirene continues to cause chaos in Simla, as she clashes with Cynthia and wreaks havoc in Ralph and Madeleine's marriage.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.00 Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix Highlights.

12.00 Film: I Love You Phillip Morris. (2009) **1.45** Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) **2.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.35** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.50** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.00** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** LazyTown. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.20** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.50** The Gadget Show. **12.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45** Greatest Animated Movies. (R) **4.40 Film:** Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return. (2013) Premiere. Animated fantasy, with the voice of Lea Michele.

6.20 Film: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. (1937) Premiere. Disney animated version of the Brothers Grimm story about a princess driven from her home into a sinister forest by her evil stepmother. She is taken in by a group of kindly dwarf miners, but her happiness is threatened when her stepmother returns bearing a poisoned apple. The first ever feature length animated movie, with the voices of Adriana Caselotti and Lucille La Verne.

8.00 Now That's Funny! Featuring failures in 3D and some unlucky beginners. Plus, the latest Stars of the Week.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. Jonathan Ross is enlisted to help two of this week's illusionists, assisting on a card trick and an act involving drawing. Plus, a performer attempts to use mental trickery on Penn and Teller and a fourth act make animals disappear and comes up with a new twist on the classic cup and ball routine. Finally, Penn and Teller recruit a member of the audience for a knife-throwing act.

10.00 Film: Carrie. (2013) Premiere. A teenage girl finally snaps and uses her psychic powers to avenge herself on the bullies who tormented her. Horror remake, starring Chloe Grace Moretz and Julianne Moore.

12.00 Johnstone's Paint Trophy Football. **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Tube: Going Underground. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Sir Peter Maxwell Davies: Master and Maverick **8.00** Pappano's Classical Voices **9.00** A Fanatic Heart: Geldof on Yeats **10.40 Film:** Age of Uprising: The Legend of Michael Kohlhaas (2013) **12.35** Dan Cruickshank: Resurrecting History – Warsaw **1.35** Sounds of the 70s **2.05** A Fanatic Heart: Geldof on Yeats **3.45** Close

ITV2

11.30 Take Me Out **12.45** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.45 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **3.55** Britain's Got More Talent: Top 10 Animal Acts **4.55** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** Bordertown **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** @ elevenish **2.15** Ariana Grande: The Hot Desk **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.20 Film: Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) **12.50** A Touch of Frost **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** By Royal Appointment **9.00** Great Estates of Scotland **10.15 Film:** The American President (1995) **11.15** FYI Daily **11.20 Film:** The American President (1995) **12.35** The Kindness of Strangers **2.05** Wycliffe **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** On the Buses **5.35** Judge Judy **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

6.15 The Goodwood Members Meeting **7.15** Football's Greatest: George Best **7.30** Pawn Stars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Police Academy (1984) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Police Academy (1984) **11.05 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **1.10** The Sweeney **2.05** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

2.55 Toy Story Toons **3.25** Ice Age: The Great Egg-Scapade **3.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** Rude Tube **12.05** The Aliens **1.10** The 100 **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.55** Rules of Engagement **3.40** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **1.00** Sunshine on Leith (2013) **3.05** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **4.40** Home Alone (1990) **6.45** Grease 2 (1982) **9.00** Red 2 (2013)

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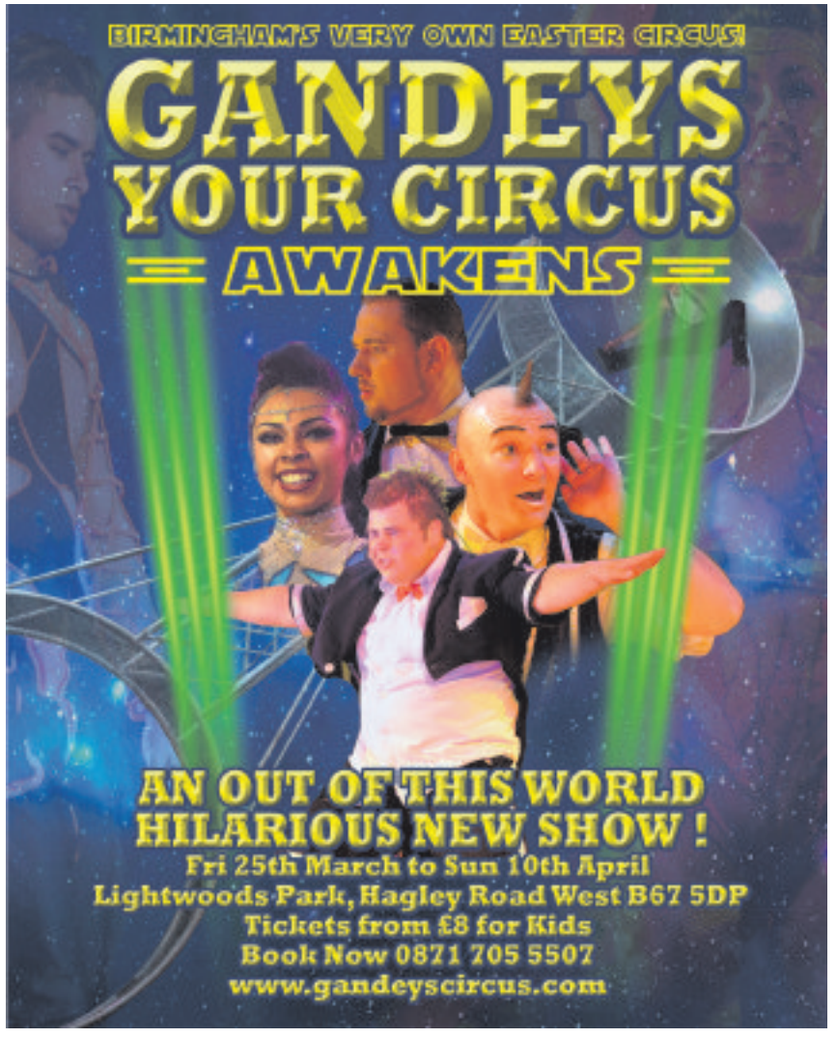

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Deadly Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.20pm
The estranged members of the Danville family are reunited when their patriarch, a prominent politician, is murdered. However, one of them is missing – an unstable daughter who was abandoned in a mental institution years before. When news reaches them that she escaped on the night of the killing, they realise she could be the culprit – and they could be next. Thriller, starring Marilu Henner. (2008)

TUESDAY
Stolen Child, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A couple who have tried unsuccessfully to conceive resort to adopting a baby from Eastern Europe. However, their newfound happiness is shattered when they discover the disturbing series of events that brought the child into their lives. Drama, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Corbin Bernsen. (2012)

The Living Daylights, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
The Charge of the Light Brigade, BBC2, 1.50pm
A British major and his brother stationed in India during the Crimean War become rivals when they fall in love with the same woman. An allied local ruler betrays the British, carrying out a massacre of civilians and prompting the major to swear revenge on him – ultimately leading a suicidal attack on an enemy artillery position. Fact-based drama, starring Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland and Nigel Bruce. (1936)

THURSDAY
Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.25pm
A divorcee suspects a nursery is mistreating her young daughter. Thriller, starring Kayla Ewell. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2014)

FRIDAY
The Living Daylights, ITV, 10.40pm
James Bond crosses the continents to help a KGB agent to defect to the West. While protecting him from an unknown assassin, the super-spy is drawn into the world of arms dealing. Action adventure, with Timothy Dalton making his debut appearance as 007, alongside Maryam d'Abo, Joe Don Baker and Art Malik. (1987)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Marcella faces a deadly blast from the past

In 2014, the Swedish-Danish crime thriller The Bridge began a run on BBC Four.

Fans of the series may be interested to know that its creator, Hans Rosenfeldt, is also the man behind this new drama, his first British project.

"Turin is a city in the north of Italy that I don't know much about, but it was there that Marcella was born," reveals Rosenfeldt. "I was there to talk about The Bridge, and my thoughts on the remakes that have been made. It's there that I met TV executive Nicola Larder.

"Later, at a very nice dinner, she said she had an idea about a police series set in London, where we meet the protagonist at her lowest ebb, having just been left by her husband, with her kids away at boarding school and a serial killer from the past reappearing. Would I be interested in developing it further? The answer to that, as you've probably guessed, was yes."

Of course, cops on the edge aren't exactly a rarity – in fact, millions of us have recently been gripped by the second series of Happy Valley, in which Sarah Lancashire played Catherine Cawood, a police sergeant still somehow picking herself up and carrying on with her life despite being repeatedly hit by its slings and arrows, including a psychopath determined to grind her down from inside his prison cell.

Here, the action takes place in London rather than West Yorkshire, and focuses on Marcella Backland, played by Anna Friel.

When we first meet her, Marcella is heartbroken by the break-up of her marriage and needs a new purpose. As a result, she returns to the police career she gave up 10 years previously, and throws herself into her work with the Met's Murder Squad to stop herself falling apart.

Her first case involves a serial killer whose raison d'etre appears to be the same of a murderer she was trying to find in 2005. Has he started a new killing spree, or have the crimes been committed by a copycat?

"Anna Friel was the only actress I had in my head," says Larder. "I'd worked with her briefly and I knew she was this incredibly powerful method actress. And I'd missed her – she hasn't been in the UK for a while. She's the right age for this character and emotionally she just lets herself go into a part.

"Thankfully her first meeting with us went really well. I felt she had plugged herself into mine and Hans's bodies and she understood this character from the inside out."

Larder also claims that it still "feels fresh" to have a female lead character in a major drama series, despite many examples of that happening, including in the aforementioned Happy Valley, as well as the likes of Scott and Bailey and, of course, the mighty Prime Suspect.

She also neglects to mention the Nordic flavour brought to the BBC's River by Stellan Skarsgard, but we'll forgive her these omissions if Marcella lives up to its promise.

Anna Friel stars in Marcella, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Neighbours: Hotel Death Trap
Channel 5, 5.30pm
It's all kicking off in Erinsborough this week! Over the years viewers have witnessed some extraordinary (and, occasionally, unbelievable moments) during the long-running soap, but those in the know claim that this may top the lot – we're certainly not used to the usually family friendly programme requiring a post-watershed slot. It all begins with everything seemingly ticking over as normal at the Lassiter's leisure complex. Everyone is going about their business, unaware that somebody is tampering with its boiler. As a variety of meetings and assignations get under way – including a secret rendezvous, surprise encounters and the arrival of two mystery men – the boiler explodes, leaving some well-known faces buried and trapped beneath the resulting debris. But who will survive the carnage?

TUESDAY
Murdered By My Father
BBC1, 10.45pm
In 2014, BBC Three brought us the award-winning one-off drama Murdered By My Boyfriend, which explored the issues of domestic abuse. Now the channel is bringing us this powerful drama, which is airing on TV after receiving its debut online, and tackles the controversial subject of 'honour violence' in Britain. Kiran Sonia Sawar stars as teenager Salma, whose widowed father Shahzad (Adeel Akhtar) is determined to find her a suitable husband, and thinks he has picked one in the shape of Haroon (Salman Akhtar). However, Salma has fallen for Imi (Mawaan Rizwan), who urges her to leave her family and marriage arrangements behind in favour of a new life. When Haroon confronts Shahzad about his daughter's actions, the scene is set for more than one tragedy…

WEDNESDAY
The People Next Door
Channel 4, 9pm
The award-winning team behind Cyberbully and Blackout are back with another thought-provoking one-off drama that raises some difficult questions. It begins with a young middle-class couple being interviewed by the police following an altercation with their neighbours. A series of flashbacks reveal that parents-to-be Gemma (Joanna Horton) and Richard (Happy Valley's Karl Davies) moved into their home two months ago and, after hearing sounds of rows and violence through the wall, they begin to suspect that one the neighbours' children is at risk of abuse. When the authorities fail to intervene, Gemma and Richard use increasingly elaborate surveillance methods to find out what is really happening next door. Are their intrusive actions justified if it means protecting a child, or are the snooping couple the real neighbours from hell?

Murdered By My Father, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

THURSDAY
Millionaires' Mansions
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. London's housing market is booming, thanks to foreign investors buying property worth more than £100 billion – and as a result the luxury interior design industry is flourishing. This documentary follows three prestigious designers working for some of the capital's wealthiest clients. They include Joanna Wood, who has been designing houses for royal families and Hollywood film stars for 30 years, and Brian Wade, who has spent the past four-and-a-half years designing a seven-storey Knightsbridge townhouse, with furniture including a stingray-skin coffee table and a chandelier made from Hyde Park leaves dipped in gold.

FRIDAY
Football: Women's Euro 2017 Qualifiers
BBC2, 7.30pm
There will be no room for complacency for World Cup semi-finalists England tonight as they face Belgium in their latest Euro 2017 Qualifier at Rotherham United's New York Stadium. After the 8-0 drubbing of Estonia in Tallinn, Mark Sampson's Lionesses only just squeezed through their last qualifier 1-0 at home to Bosnia & Herzegovina, thanks to a Jill Scott winner. And they are also looking to bounce back after failing to win any of their three games against Germany, USA and France in last month's inaugural SheBelieves Cup in America. Presenter Jacqui Oatley is joined in the studio by England internationals Kelly Smith and Rachel Brown-Finnis, while commentary is provided by Jonathan Pearce and Sue Smith.

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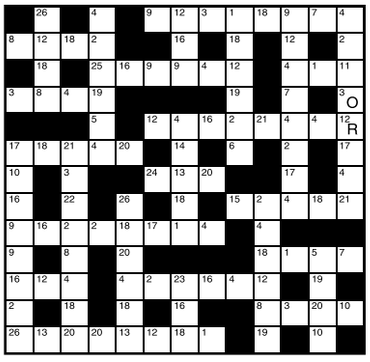
BRAIN GYM No.371

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3 O	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 R	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	K	F	M	W	R	H	Y	V	X	T	Q	G
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	C	S	L	O	U	D	B	Z	E	J	P	N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

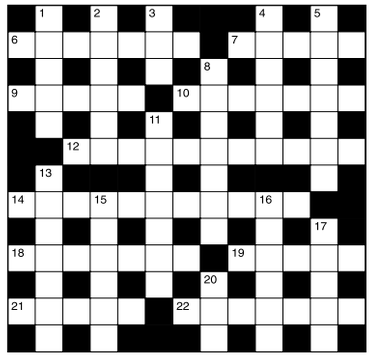
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Be understanding and get along somehow (4,3)
7. In the main he gets down to his work (5)
9. Match label (5)
10. Get together – for getting in the harvest? (7)
12. Having no saving graces? (11)
14. Not a difficult thing to eat? (5,2,4)
18. His money may be well-earned! (7)
19. One has no right to take things so (5)
21. About enough for one shot (5)
22. Succeed in losing one's balance? (4,3)

Down

1. Obtain part of South Africa by birth? (5)
2. Such action will be involuntary (6)
3. Fruit brought up in a container (3)
4. A case of perhaps private possessions? (3-3)
5. It's beastly being a long time in one occupation (7)
8. He's not free, yet may have time! (7)
11. Soldier on a horse or military ship (7)
13. Acid criticism (7)
15. Stop a letter giving settlement (6)
16. Lot of Arabs (6)
17. The general idea in current travel (5)
20. He has nothing inside for gardeners (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

6. Harmed (7)
7. Wed (5)
9. To object (5)
10. Malady (7)
12. Secret (11)
14. Cows (11)
18. Hard-hearted (7)
19. Talk (5)
21. Trivial (5)
22. Bill (7)

Down

1. Come in (5)
2. Reciprocal (6)
3. Lair (3)
4. Mourn (6)
5. Gift (7)
8. Generous (7)
11. Old-fashioned (7)
13. Incensed (7)
15. Creeks (6)
16. Use (6)
17. Haggard (5)
20. Perform (3)

Sudoku

2	1			7			4	9
7				1				3
	4				8		7	
		8	7		2	5		
	9							
		4	5		9	3	2	
	6		4				3	
4				2				6
8	2			9			1	4

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	4	6	8	1	3	7	5	2
7	8	2	6	9	5	4	3	1
5	3	1	7	2	4	9	8	6
4	9	3	1	6	8	5	2	7
8	2	7	3	5	9	6	1	4
6	1	5	4	7	2	3	9	8
2	6	9	5	4	1	8	7	3
1	7	8	9	3	6	2	4	5
3	5	4	2	8	7	1	6	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Head-waiter; 7 Orbit; 8 Inertia; 10 Not right; 11 Pays; 13 Feeler; 15 Beings; 17 Undo; 18 Lukewarm; 21 Threats; 22 Eaten; 23 Denigrated. Down: 1 Habit; 2 Attained; 3 Weight; 4 Item; 5 Entrain; 6 Found fault; 9 Assessment; 12 Tenement; 14 Endorse; 16 Purser; 19 Acted; 20 Taxi. QUICK - Across: 1 Foreboding; 7 Begin; 8 Learner; 10 Intruder; 11 Flag; 13 Abduct; 15 Lessen; 17 Oust; 18 Defender; 21 Younger; 22 About; 23 Tenderness. Down: 1 Fight; 2 Renounce; 3 Billet; 4 Drab; 5 Nonplus; 6 Obligatory; 9 Regenerate; 12 Venerate; 14 Dispute; 16 Bearer; 19 Dross; 20 Aged.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who missed the last penalty of World Cup 94?
2. Which part of the brain controls balance and coordination?
3. Which animal has red, grey and Arctic varieties?
4. Of what nationality is golfer Nick Price?
5. In which river are the Thousand Islands?
6. Who was the father-in-law of Moses?
7. Which poet's middle name was Bysshe?
8. Which Dutch queen's husband was Prince Bernhard?
9. Which French philosopher coined the term 'property is theft'?
10. To which family does the okapi belong?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 WWI; 2 Denmark and Norway; 3 Lothian; 4 The Lion King; 5 Human Immunodeficiency Virus; 6 Napoleon Bonaparte; 7 Month; 8 Danish; 9 John Prescott; 10 Romansch.

Niner: ABUSIVELY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2359 gives a garment,
581495 gives another garment,
967895 gives a third garment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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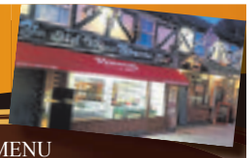

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- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Every May the grounds of Royal Hospital Chelsea are transformed into a patchwork of show gardens, vibrant plant displays and inspirational show gardens, as the gardening world gather for the UK's most famous flower show.

Set in 11 acres, the Chelsea Flower Show is the most prestigious show in the country, showcasing all the latest in garden design innovation.

The Great Pavilion is the centrepiece, housing a vast exhibition of displays by growers from all over the world, while the show gardens incorporate tranquil water features, sculptures and carefully conceived plantings, making them the talking point of every show.

There are plenty of refreshments on hand too, everything from cafes, farmers market stalls, wood fired pizzas and seafood restaurants to a real ale bar and champagne lounge.

This show is the one top professionals want to be known for, with over 550 exhibitors all striving for a Chelsea gold medal.

And whether its a small yard or wild flower meadow, there are ideas for every taste and growing space.

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: May 27

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
Rail and Steam

From £299

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation plus two evening meals
- ✓ Ticket to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- ✓ Return journey on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
- ✓ Visits to Edinburgh, Aberfoyle and Gretna Green
- ✓ Circular Cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: August 12

Royal Ascot on Ladies Day

From £89.95

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of sparkling wine
- ✓ Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure on Ladies Day (upgrade to Grandstand admission ticket offered for a supplement of £45.00 per person)
- ✓ Services of a coach driver/tour representative

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

DAYS: 1 DEPARTS: JUNE 16

Wimbledon

From £159

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- ✓ Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No 1 court
- ✓ Visit to Windsor
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: July 9 and 10

London Theatre by rail

From £159.95*

- ✓ Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
- ✓ Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- ✓ Ticket for a Saturday evening performance for a choice of shows
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

*The from price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure web/page for details

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

DAYS: 2/3 DEPARTS: Various dates

HMS Victory and the Mary Rose

From £139

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to see HMS Victory and the Mary Rose Museum
- ✓ Visits to Winchester
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: July 30

Swan Lake
at the Royal Albert Hall

From £149.95

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a 4-star outer London hotel
- ✓ Circle ticket to see the evening performance of Swan Lake at the Royal Albert Hall (upgrade offered)
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: June 4

London Welsh Festival
of Male Voice Choirs

From £159

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at an outer London Hotel
- ✓ Rear circle seat for the London Welsh Festival of Male Voice Choirs at the Royal Albert Hall (upgrade offered)
- ✓ Panoramic sightseeing tour of London
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: October 15

Afternoon Tea
at the Houses of Parliament

From £299

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Three nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- ✓ Afternoon tea in the Terrace Pavilion of the House of Commons overlooking the Thames
- ✓ Visits to St Albans, Kenwood House and the Royal Air Force Museum
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

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DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Jun 17, Aug 26

Lakes and Mountains
of Austria

From £919

- ✓ Return flights
- ✓ Seven nights four-star half-board accommodation
- ✓ Tour of the Salzkammergut
- ✓ Visits to St Wolfgang and the waterfalls at Krimml
- ✓ Guided tour of Salzburg
- ✓ Tour of the Alpine Road to the foot of the Grossglockner
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various dates

Undiscovered Malta

From £799

- ✓ Return flights
- ✓ Seven nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Guided tours of Valletta, Rabat and Mdina
- ✓ Tour of the island of Gozo
- ✓ Visits to St Paul's Catacombs and Marsaxlokk
- ✓ Tour of the Neolithic temples of Ggantija and Tarxien
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various dates

Lisbon, Seville and the Algarve

From £469

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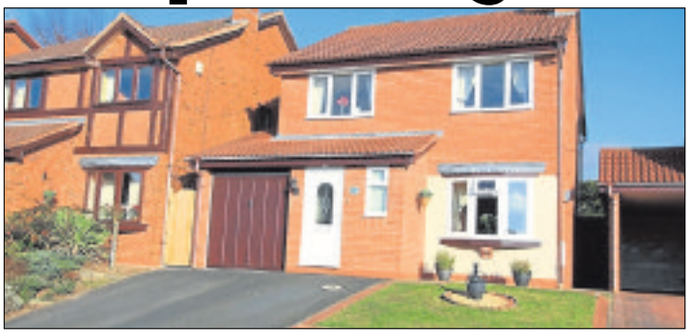
- ✓ Seven nights half-board accommodation on the Algarve
- ✓ Guided excursion to Lisbon
- ✓ Visit to Seville
- ✓ Optional excursions offered
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Selected dates November 2016 to April 2017

Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises). Please note the Star Reader Travel department is unable to take bookings.

Cul-de-sac four bed home has price tag of £300,000



AN impressive four-bedroomed family home in a quiet position at the head of a cul-de-sac in Penleigh Gardens, Wolverhampton is extremely well presented.

With a pleasant rear garden, parking and a garage, it is for sale through Skitts at £300,000.

Having double glazing and gas central heating it has a living room with double doors into a dining room which has patio doors, kitchen with built-in oven with a four-ring gas hob and cooker hood, integrated fridge and a pantry, bedroom one en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom.

The rear garden has a paved patio area, neat lawn area, timber decking area and a garden shed. For further information contact Skitts on 01902 686868 or visit www.skitts.net

Conversion potential for the outbuildings

SET close to countryside, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house comes with gardens, off-road parking and various outbuildings.

It is for sale through Connells at £115,000.

It has a generous lounge and separate sitting room/dining room, an adjoining kitchen, three bedrooms and a wet room.

The two storage outbuildings situated to the rear of the property have conversion potential. Nearby is a selection of shops at the BentleyBridge retail park and this property has good commuting access to the M54 and adjoining M6 motorways.

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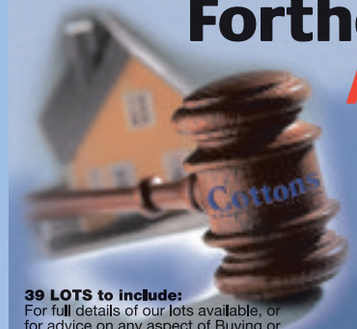

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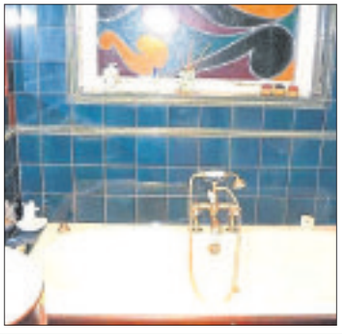
Stunning detached home is close to Warley Woods

A SUPERB detached close to Warley Woods at Lenwade Road, Oldbury comes with a guide price of £360,000 through agents Derek Spires.

With gardens to front and rear and off-street parking to the side it has a porch, a kitchen/dining room overlooking the garden with marble effect work surfaces set in tiled surrounds and a dining area with sliding patio doors leading to the outside.

There is an entrance hall with an under-stairs cupboard and stairs off, a fully tiled bathroom with a white suite, a front facing lounge with a bay window, shelving and storage, a rear sitting room with a pebble-effect electric fire and patio doors to the outside, four bedrooms (one with a bay window and wardrobes) and a fully tiled shower room. Contact Derek Spires on 0121 4204646 or visit www.derekspiresandco.com



Five-bed detached is near golf course

AN impressive detached house with five bedrooms in Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury overlooks Brandhall Golf Course.

It is for sale through Tom Giles at £359,950.

It has a porch with a tiled floor, a reception hall with a staircase off and oak wood flooring, a feature archway to a dining room with a bay window, a living room with a gas fire and patio doors to a conservatory, a re-fitted kitchen with floor tiling, a four-ring induction hob, a cooker with a cooker hood above, a breakfast room with utility area to the rear, a WC, five bedrooms, a bathroom with a whirlpool bath and shower cubicle, a garage and rear garden with extensive decking. For further information contact Tom Giles & Co on 0121 5526171 www.tomgilesandco.co.uk

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Offers In The Region Of £88,000

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New Meeting Street, Oldbury
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- Double Glazing
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- Viewing Absolutely Essential

TO LET: £575 PCM

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- Three Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- DSS With Deposit Considered

TO LET: £550 PCM

NEW
New Meeting Street, Oldbury
Luxury Modern Style First Floor Apartment Situated In Oldbury Town Centre, Easy Access To Local Amenities & Local Motorway/Rail Networks. EPC - C
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Spacious Lounge
- Open Plan Fitted Kitchen With Appliances
- Two Good Bedrooms
- Bathroom & En-Suite Shower Room
- Secure Parking Behind Electric Gates
- Viewing Absolutely Essential

TO LET: £575 PCM

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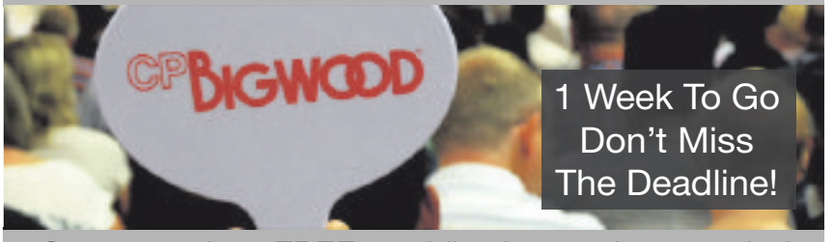

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Sales & Lettings

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NEW

THURE ROAD, SMETHWICK

SUPERB traditional style 3 bed semi detached home in POPULAR LOCATION, HANDY FOR WARLEY WOODS, offering EXTENDED & REFITTED breakfast kitchen, lounge & separate dining room, WELL MAINTAINED GOOD SIZED rear garden, off road parking & GARAGE. MUST BE VIEWED TO BE APPRECIATED. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD **£249,950**

NEW

KINGSWAY, OLDBURY

EXTENDED family home with 3 GOOD sized bedrooms. EXTENDED 22ft lounge & separate 15ft sitting room. EXTENDED 18ft REFITTED kitchen diner with utility area to side & d/s WC. REFITTED family bathroom with both shower & roll top bath - White suite. GARAGE & driveway to front. Garden to rear. GCH & DG fitted. EPC rating: TBC

QUINTON **£179,950**

NEW

UPPER ST MARYS ROAD, BEARWOOD

NO UPWARD CHAIN - most CONVENIENT FOR WARLEY WOODS and BEARWOOD town centre, requiring some modernizing but OFFERS POTENTIAL, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs wc/shower room, 3 BEDS, UPSTAIRS BATHROOM, pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating TBC.

BEARWOOD **£164,950**

NEW

THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK

Traditional style 3 BEDROOMED semi detached home, CONVENIENT POSITION with NO UPWARD CHAIN, offering LENGTHY REAR GARDEN, 2 reception rooms, bathroom with separate wc, OFF ROAD PARKING, and GARAGE. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating tbc.

BEARWOOD **£150,000**

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NEW

EDINBURGH ROAD, OLDBURY

MODERNISED semi-detached home with BLOCKPAVED driveway to front. REFITTED 15ft kitchen diner, utility area & 13ft lounge. REFITTED bathroom & 3 good sized bedrooms on 1st floor. Landscaped rear garden with shed & store. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: C

QUINTON **£145,000**

NEW

TIMOTHY ROAD, TIVIDALE

SPACIOUS & much improved modern home with GARAGE to side. 23ft lounge diner with feature log burner. REFITTED kitchen & separate REFITTED utility room. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom on 1st floor. GCH & UPVC DG. DRIVEWAY to front & gardens to rear & side. EPC rating: TBC

BEARWOOD **£137,000**

NEW

SOUTHFIELD ROAD, EDGBASTON

2 bedroomed end terraced property with NO UPWARD CHAIN, convenient for gaining access to BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE, having 2 RECEPTION ROOMS, 2 good sized bedrooms, UPSTAIRS BATHROOM, rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD **£104,950**

NEW

HERBERT ROAD, BEARWOOD

UNFURNISHED - Available end of April - Spacious traditional style terrace, POPULAR LOCATION, with 2 reception rooms & breakfast kitchen. 3 DOUBLE bedrooms, a STUDY & 1st floor bathroom & 2nd floor EN-SUITE shower room. Lawned rear garden. UPVC DBG & GCH. EPC rating E. NO DSS, NO PETS, NO SMOKERS. - Subject to non refundable admin fee of £100 per tenant

BEARWOOD **£795 PCM**

MUST BE VIEWED

DEVON ROAD, BEARWOOD

4 BED home with large SOUTH facing rear garden close to Warley Woods. 27ft lounge diner with 9ft kitchen & utility room. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom on 1st floor. 15ft MASTER bedroom & EN-SUITE shower room on 2nd floor. BLOCKPAVED driveway & garage. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D

BEARWOOD **£279,950**

MUST BE VIEWED

TALBOT ROAD, SMETHWICK

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE EARLY APRIL - Spacious traditional style terrace, POPULAR LOCATION, with Lounge/diner & breakfast kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & 1st floor bathroom. LOW MAINTENANCE rear garden. UPVC DBG & GCH. EPC rating D. NO DSS, NO PETS, NO SMOKERS. - Subject to non refundable admin fee of £100 per tenant

BEARWOOD **£575 PCM**

OVER 40 YEARS EST 1975

Established 1975
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DEREK SPIRES

Traditional Values, modern techniques

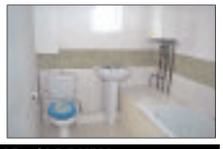
NEW

229 BEARWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Spacious Family Home
- Centrally Heated & Double Glazed
- Three Good Size Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Dining Room & Kitchen
- Bathroom & Separate WC
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £158,950

NEW

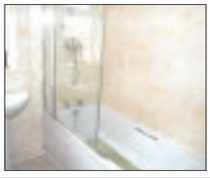


7 VERNON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Gas Centrally Heated
- PVC Double Glazed
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ideal FTBs or Investors
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £89,000

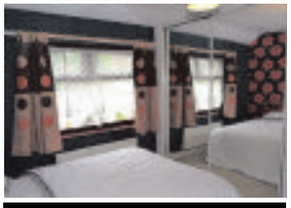
NEW



175 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK

Gas Centrally Heated & Virtually PVC Double Glazed
Three Bedrooms
Fully Tiled Bathroom & Separate WC
Two Reception Rooms
Side Garage & Off-Street Parking
ENERGY RATING : D

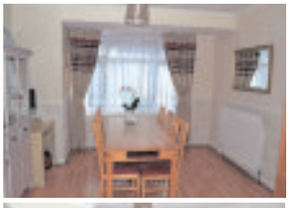
OFFERS BASED ON £150,000



59 HURST ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Tiled Bathroom
- Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Off-Street Parking for Two Cars
- ENERGY RATING : D

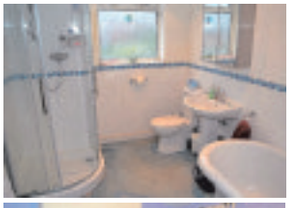
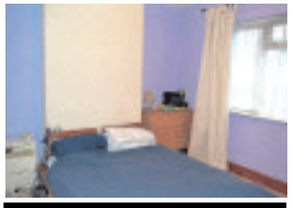
OFFERS BASED ON £114,950



49 GREENFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Tiled Bathroom
- Inter-Communicating Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Refitted Kitchen
- Neatly laid out Gardens
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

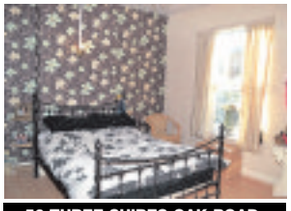



4 MERRIVALE ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom to the First Floor
- Two Reception Rooms
- Refitted Kitchen Downstairs
- Gardens to the Rear
- Ideal for First Time Buyers

ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950



56 THREE SHIRES OAK ROAD, BEARWOOD

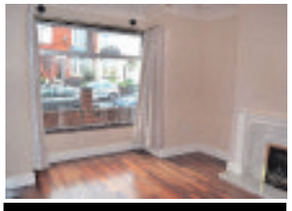
- Gas Centrally Heated and PVC Double Glazed
- Three Bedrooms
- Dining Room & Lounge
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Off-Street Parking
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £137,950

53 MILCOTE ROAD, BEARWOOD

- PRIME LOCATION
- Gas Central Heating
- PVC Double Glazed
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen & Fully Tiled Bathroom
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £189,950



185 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly Presented
- Three Bedrooms & Fully Tiled Bathroom
- Kitchen & Utility
- Inter-Communicating Lounge
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Beautifully Presented Garden
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £229,950

MONDAY 6 JUNE 2016

AUCTION

Our second auction of the year!

Following the success of our February auction we are now taking entries for our next event

Please phone **Derek Spires** or **Steven Baker** for more information and we shall be pleased to offer auction advice and a free valuation

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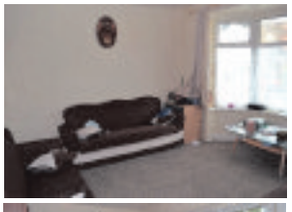

207 WILLOW AVENUE, EDGBASTON

- Three Bedrooms & Bathroom
- Lounge & Extended Sitting Room
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Garage and Garden Beyond
- Potential Off-Street Parking to the Front
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £184,950

PRICES from £59,000

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St Helens Avenue, Tipton

- Attractive Modern Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Ideal First Time Purchase
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing:

William Barrows Way, Tipton

- modern semi detached
- upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- family accommodation
- 4 Bedrooms ● En Suite, EPC B

OFFERS AROUND: £170,000
Viewing:

Anchor Drive, Tipton

- Modern 3 Storey End Town House
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950
Viewing:

Avern Close, Tipton

- Attractive Modern End Terrace
- Good Location ● Viewing Recommended
- Gas Central Heating ● Excellent Size Plot
- 2 Bedroom
- Lounge

Viewing

- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Side Garage, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £119,995

Devey Drive, Tipton

- Modern End Terrace
- Gas Central Heating
- Sought After Development
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £103,000
Viewing:

Hursey Drive, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- 50% Shared Ownership Scheme
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £55,000
Viewing:

Vernon Avenue, Tipton

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● No Upward Chain
- Porch ● Reception hall
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Patricia Drive, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Sought After Development
- 2 Bedrooms
- Lounge ● Conservatory

Viewing

- Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- , EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000

Oakley Avenue, Tipton

- Attractive Extended Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Extended To Side ● Viewing Recommended
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge ● Dining Room

Viewing

- Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms ● Shower Room
- Good Size Side Garage, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £136,000

Addenbrooke Street, Wednesbury

- Impressive & Immaculate Detached Residence
- Three Bedrooms & Refitted Family Bathroom
- Spacious Lounge & Dining Room
- Energy Rating E, Feature Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £185,000
Viewing:

Delville Road, Wednesbury

- Spacious Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & Modern Bathroom
- Good Size Lounge
- , Kitchen Including Breakfast Area

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950
Viewing:

Friar Park Road, Wednesbury

- Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Modern Kitchen
- EPC Rating: D, First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

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Somerset Crescent, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Through Lounge & Kitchen
- Energy Rating TBC, First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing:

Grange Road, West Bromwich

- Mid Terrace Property
- 3 Bedrooms
- Sitting Room, Lounge
- , Kitchen / Diner

OFFERS AROUND: £149,500
Viewing:

Hampshire Road, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- Entrance Porch, Hallway
- , Lounge / Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £135,000
Viewing:

Vicarage Road, West Bromwich

- Mid Terrace House
- 3 Bedrooms
- Porch, Lounge, Dining Room
- , Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Ardav Road, West Bromwich

- Mid Terrace Property
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge / Diner
- , Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Somerset Crescent, Wednesbury

- Well Maintained Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms & Kitchen
- Energy Rating C, Shower Room With Separate WC

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Longcroft Avenue, Wednesbury

- Modern Style Detached Residence
- Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Contemporary Style Kitchen
- EPC Rating - D, Through Lounge Incorporating

OFFERS AROUND: £185,000
Viewing:

Wharfedale Street, Wednesbury

- Spacious Mid Terrace Home
- Three Bedrooms & Loft Room
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating D, Modern Kitchen & Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached House
- 2 Bedrooms
- Hallway, Lounge
- , Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995
Viewing:

Hall Green Road, West Bromwich

- Fully Refurbished Detached
- 4 Bedrooms
- Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory
- , Study/ Bedroom 5 and Shower Room

OFFERS AROUND: £300,000
Viewing:

Old Meeting Street, West Bromwich

- Top floor apartment
- 2 Bedrooms
- Open Plan lounge/kitchen/Diner
- , Family Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £78,950
Viewing:

Grafton Road, West Bromwich

- !st Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- , Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £77,500
Viewing:

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NEW

Wigorn Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented End Terrace
- Off Road Parking
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £167,500

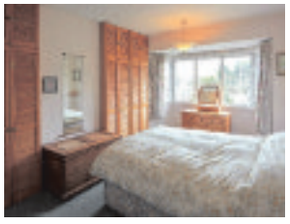
NEW

Norman Avenue, Harborne

- Charming Family Home
- Five Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £399,950

NEW

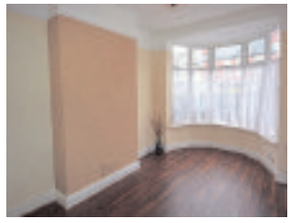
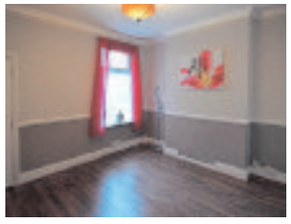


White Road, Quinton

- Delightful Family Home
- Three Bedroom Semi
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £179,950

NEW

Arden Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- First Floor Bathroom
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £117,500

NEW

Barclay Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Brekfast kitchen
- Period Features
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £244,950

NEW PRICE

Selwyn Road, Edgbaston

- Traditional Detached Property
- Five Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Delightful Breakfast Kitchen
- Ideal Family Sized Accommodation
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £280,000

Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury

- Attractive & Extended Semi
- Ideal Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £209,950

NEW PRICE

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Stylish Mid Terrace
- Refurbished 2015
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Stunning Kitchen
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £224,950

NEW PRICE

Poplar Avenue, Edgbaston

- End Of Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £214,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Detached Family Home
- Three Reception Rooms
- Five Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £339,950

NEW PRICE

George Road, Oldbury

- Most Attractive Bungalow
- L-Shaped Lounge/Diner
- Contemporary Styled Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Parking & Garage
- EP Rating B

Offers in the region of £209,950

Stony Lane, Smethwick

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £124,950

Capethorn Road, Smethwick

- Tastefully Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Period Features
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,950

Dale Street, Smethwick

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Beautifully Presented
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £129,950

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Wasperton Close, Birmingham

- Three Bedroom Sem-Detached House
- Situated On A Large Corner Plot
- Off Road Parking/ Tandem Garage
- Through Open Plan Louge/ Diner

Offers in Excess of £209,950

Minton Road, Harborne

- 3 BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- DRIVEWAY AND GARAGE
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £199,950

Cambridge Crescent, Edgbaston

- MODERN TWO BEDROOM HOUSE
- UPSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZED

Offers in Excess of £194,950

Shelsley Avenue, Oldbury

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- ENSUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £174,950

Dayhouse Bank, Romsley

- DELIGHTFUL TWO BEDROOM COTTAGE
- PRIVATE MATURE REAR GARDENS
- LOVELY PERIOD FEATURES
- EPC RATING: F

Offers in Excess of £169,950

Tame Street, West Bromwich

- MODERN THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LARGER THAN AVERAGE PLOT OF LAND
- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE
- DOWNSTAIRS WC

Offers in Excess of £159,950

Midland Drive, Sutton Coldfield

- SECOND FLOOR RETIREMENT APARTMENT WITH LIFT
- EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH QUALITY THROUGHOUT
- REAL OAK FLOORING AND OAK GLASS PANELLED DOORS
- TWO BEDROOM WITH FITTED WARDROBES

Offers in the Region Of £144,950

Cheshire Road, Smethwick

- FOUR BEDROOM MID TERRACE
- OPEN PLAN LARGE THROUGH LOUNGE
- SPACIOUS PROPERTY OFFERING POTENTIAL
- EPC RATING D

Offers in Excess of £126,950

Titford Road, Oldbury

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- MODERN KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM ROOM

£124,950

Hudson Road, Tipton

- SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOM TERRACE
- DECORATED TO A TASTEFUL STANDARD
- NEWLY INSTALLED EXPENSIVE KITCHEN
- EPC RATING C

Offers in Excess of £119,950

The Fairway, Kings Norton

- THREE BEDROOM TERRACE HOUSE
- DOUBLE GARAGES TO THE REAR
- FITTED KITCHEN DINER AREA
- EPC RATING B

Offers in the Region Of £134,950

Shelsley Avenue, Oldbury

- THREE BEDROOM MID TERRACE
- SPACIOUS THROUGH LOUNGE
- MODERN NEWLY FITTED KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: TBC

Offers in Excess of £124,950

The Furlong, Wednesbury

- 3 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £119,950

Barnwood Road, Wolverhampton

- THREE BEDROOM END TERRACE
- SPACIOUS MODERN LOUNGE
- KITCHEN / DINER
- UPSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM

Offers in Excess of £99,950

Sinope, Sherborne Street

- FIRST FLOOR STUDIO APARTMENT
- MODERN INTERIOR
- INTEGRATED FITTED KITCHEN
- FAMILY BATHROOM

Offers in Excess of £94,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- EXCELLENT THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- SEPERATE LARGE ANNEX
- CONSERVATORY AND OUTHOUSE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £214,950

Cadgwith Gardens, Bilston

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- SITUATED IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
- OPEN PLAN DINING/BREAKFAST ROOM
- EPC RATING: E

Guide Price £189,950

Hellier Avenue, Tipton

- LOVELY THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- ON A LARGE PLOT OF LAND
- OFF ROAD PARKING WITH GARAGE
- EPC: D

Offers in the Region Of £174,950

Plants Grove, Erdington

- MODERN THREE BEDROOM HOUSE
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OPEN PLAN LIVING ROOM
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS

Offers in Excess of £129,950

Little Lane, West Bromwich

- Three Bedrooms Terraced Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Close to Sandwell Hospital
- EPC Rating D

Offers in Excess of £109,950

Brunswick Road, Handsworth

- 4 BEDROOM END OF TERRACE HOME IN HANDSWORTH
- MODERN NEUTRAL DECOR
- LARGE KITCHEN/DINER
- EPC RATING: B

£750 ● Fees Apply●*

Druids Avenue, Rowley Regis

- THREE BEDROOM LINKED DETACHED HOUSE
- NICE QUIET LOCATION
- GARAGE
- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS

Monthly Rental Of £625*

Heritage Way, Tipton

- FULLY FURNISHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN

Monthly Rental Of £625 ● Fees Apply*

Hobart Point, Churchfields Developement

- GROUND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- EXTREMELY WELL MAINTAINED
- REMOTE CONTROLLED GATED ACCESS
- EPC RATING: C

Monthly Rental Of £595

Gladstone Street, West Bromwich

- MODERN TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- ECONOMY 7 ELECTRICAL HEATING
- EPC RATING: B

Monthly Rental Of £500*

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WEDNESBURY

Banfield Road
Wednesbury
£134,950

ANOTHER PROPERTY SOLD THIS MONTH ON THE FIRST VIEWING!

Goldby Drive
Wednesbury
£145,000

ANOTHER PROPERTY SOLD ON THE FIRST VIEWING THIS MONTH!

Manor House Road
SSTC
£115,000

ANOTHER HOUSE SOLD ON THE FIRST VIEWING THIS MONTH!

Poplar Avenue
Wednesbury
£145,000

ANOTHER PROPERTY SOLD ON THE FIRST VIEWING THIS MONTH!

Crankhall Lane
Wednesbury
£575 PCM

ANOTHER PROPERTY LET ON THE FIRST VIEWING THIS MONTH!

Thank you to the whole sales team, Ross, Sam and Kiri in the Wednesbury branch for a professional service and achieving a fantastic price for my property!
Regards - Mr G.

A big thank you to the lettings team, Kirsty and Danny in the Wednesbury branch for finding the perfect tenants for both of my propeties.
Regards Mr M

Pine Avenue
Wednesbury
£500 PCM

ANOTHER PROPERTY LET ON THE FIRST VIEWING THIS MONTH!

Charlotte Road
Wednesbury
£139,950

An extended three bedroom semi detached property in a popular area benefiting from no upward chain. Comprising from two reception rooms and conservatory, kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, three bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, driveway, double glazing and central heating as specified.

Beard Close
Wednesbury
£107,500

Viewing essential on this two bedroom masionette briefly comprising of Double glazing and central heating (were specified) Open plan lounge/ kitchen, Master bedroom with en-suite, family bathroom, allocated parking and garden.

Trouse Lane
Wednesbury
£205,000

An executive style detached four bedroom property which must be viewed to appreciate the size on offer! Having spacious rear parking and detached garage, Two reception rooms, four double bedrooms, kitchen with utility area,downstairs W/C, double glazing & central heating .

Old Park Road
Wednesbury
Offers Over £140,000

A traditional style three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of double glazing and central heating (where specified) two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, driveway providing off-road parking, garage and NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Church Hill
Wednesbury
£160,000

Viewing advised on this traditional style three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising off central heating & double glazing(were specified) lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, driveway providing off-road parking and NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Jubilee Road
Tipton
£170,000

Floor plan is available on this deceivingly spacious extended four bedroom property which boasts generous living accommodation throughout with a 20FT conservatory & 19FT games room also with large gated off road parking.

Clover Piece
Tipton
£112,000

A modern two bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of double glazing & central heating (were specified) entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden and two allocated parking spaces.

Harlyn Close
Bilston - Tipton
£96,000

A modern style two bedroom mid terrace property briefly comprising of double glazing and central heating (were specified) fitted kitchen, lounge, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden and allocated parking.

The Oaks, Gospel Oak Road
FROM £124,950

A stunning range of eco friendly and desirable two and three bedroom houses from £124,950. Contact Connells estate agents in Wednesbury on 0121 556 2338 for more information. With over 55% of the site already reserved, call now to avoid disappointment.

Lower Church Lane
Tipton
£169,750

A beautifully designed three bedroom property minutes from Tipton and all its amenities, which is an ideal choice for first time buyers, families and commuters alike. Comprising kitchen diner, spacious lounge, bathroom, ensuite, downstairs wc, off road parking. ●Help to buy is available●

Alexandra Grange
Alendra Road, Tipton
£154,995

A three bedroom Astley having 2 car parking spaces. Kitchen with fully integrated appliances include. French Door leading to Rear turfed garden. Flooring throughout included and is ready to move in now!

Alexnadra Grange
Alexandra Road, Tipton
£189,995

A brand new four bedroom property with contemporary fitted kitchen having integrated appliances. Surprisingly spacious living room and separate kitchen/diner and two off road parking spaces.

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22 Springfield, Wednesbury,wWest Midlands WS10 9AD

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WEST BROMWICH

Park Crescent
West Bromwich **£150,000**

A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, through lounge and kitchen, an upstairs bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing (where specified) and has gardens to the front and rear. ●INTERNAL VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.● EPC RATING D

Hawkins Street
West Bromwich **£138,000**

A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property, briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, lounge and kitchen. The property also benefits from an upstairs bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, (where specified), off road parking, garage & rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC RATING D

Surrey Crescent
West Bromwich **£190,000**

●●ONLY 2 PLOTS AVAILABLE●● A beautifully presented BRAND NEW 4 bedroom semi detached property, comprising of open plan living, 4 good sized bedrooms with ensuite to master. Upstairs family bathroom, downstairs cloakroom, flooring in all rooms, rear garden and off road parking for 2-3 vehicles.

Australia Park
West Bromwich **£POA**

●PHASE 2 AUSTRALIA PARK COMING SOON
●A SELECTION OF BUNGALOWS & HOUSES (photo depicts phase 1)
●PHASE 1 COMPLETELY SOLD OUT
●DON'T MISS OUT, CALL CONNELLS TODAY!

Charlemont Crescent
West Bromwich **£249,999**

A well presented two bedroom detached bungalow briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing (where specified), front & rear gardens, two garages driveway. ●Planning approved for a single storey side extension● EPC RATING D

Kempson Avenue
West Bromwich **£149,950**

A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of a porch, through lounge, kitchen. The property also benefits from an upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing (where specified), off road parking and gardens to the front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING E

0121 525 1177 westbromwich@connells.co.uk
3 Astle Park, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 8NS

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BEARWOOD

Beakes Road
Bearwood **£13,000**

A three bedroom end terraced home in a superb location close to Bearwood High Street. Benefitting from excellent transport links and off road parking the property briefly comprises: large through lounge/dining room, kitchen, utility room.

Stony Lane
Smethwick **£130,000**

A SPACIOUS 4 bedroom property comprising of 2 reception rooms and an extended kitchen. Fully glazed throughout and central heated. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECITATE SIZE.

Heath Street
Birmingham **£99,950**

A semi detached property having good potential to extend subject to planning permission, ideal first time buy with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance lobby, lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, bathroom, parking and gardens. EPC: D

Bearwood Road
Smethwick **£139,950**

A larger than average, three bedroom end terrace Victorian property. Situated in a popular and convenient residential location the property comprises of: Entrance lobby, entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen diner, three bedrooms family bathroom, garden areas to front and rear.

Selwyn Road
Edgbaston **£280,000**

This beautifully presented 5 bed Victorian detached house, is set in a poplar location in Edgbaston. Has recently been refurbished throughout, whilst keeping a lot of the original features & character. The property comprises of 2 large reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room & downstairs & upstairs shower room.

Bleakhouse Road
Oldbury **£150,000**

A spacious 3 bed semi-detached property comprising of 2 reception rooms upstairs bathroom and off road parking. PERFECT FOR INVESTORS OR FIRST TIME BUYERS! Viewing highly recommended!

Holly Lane
Smethwick **£289,950**

An impressive 1679 SQ FT 4 bedroom detached property with 2 reception rooms, utility room, separate downstairs WC, built in wardrobes in 3 bedrooms, 2 en-suites, garage and driveway. Also available on the help to buy scheme.

Holly Lane
Smethwick **£239,950**

A very generously sized 1227 sq ft 4 bedroom home with choice of kitchen finishes and including white goods, built in wardrobes to all bedrooms, and a choice of flooring throughout, also having 2 allocated parking spaces in private courtyard and 10 year warranty. Also available on the help to buy scheme.

0121 420 3611 bearwood@connells.co.uk
122 Poplar Road, Bearwood ,West Midlands B66 4AP

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OLDBURY

View Point
Tividale
£230,000

EPC RATING AWAITED - A well presented DETACHED home situated in this IDYLIC location with excellent access to local amenities and FANTASTIC views to the front aspect.

Callaghan Drive
Tividale
£190,000

EPC RATING AWAITED - STUNNING Modern Link Detached with 2 Reception Rooms, Downstairs W.C, Conservatory, Kitchen Diner, Utility and En-Suite to Master. Beautiful décor throughout. Driveway. A MUST SEE!

Plot 108 The Lodge
Lodge Street
£189,999

EPC RATING AWAITED - A stylish development of 14 NEW BUILD homes with 3, 4 & 5 bedroom plots available. Located close to Sandwell & Dudley Railway Station, this development has excellent transport links and close to M5 Junction 2.

Plot 109 The Lodge
Lodge Street
£189,999

EPC RATING AWAITED - A stylish development of 14 NEW BUILD homes with 3, 4 & 5 bedroom plots available. Located close to Sandwell & Dudley Railway Station, this development has excellent transport links and close to M5 Junction 2.

Ashtree Road
Tividale
£160,000

EPC RATING AWAITED - Immaculately presented three bedroom semi-detached home situated in popular location with accommodation to comprise Entrance Hall, Through Lounge/ Diner, Re-fitted kitchen, re-fitted bathroom, access to a floored attic space providing potential for fourth bedroom, also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking.

Buckingham Road
Rowley Regis
£155,000

EPC RATING AWAITED - A well-presented and much improved three bedroom semi-detached home with accommodation to comprise of Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Extended and re-fitted kitchen, Utility Room, Study/Snug and to the first floor is three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Also benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, off road parking with

Bernard Road
Oldbury
£149,950

EPC RATING AWAITED - An exceptionally SPACIOUS semi detached home situated in this CONVENIENT location with excellent access to all local amenities and comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs w.c, three bedrooms and bathroom to first floor, front and rear gardens.

Crendon Road
Rowley Regis
£145,000

EPC RATING AWAITED - A three bedroom semi-detached home situated in a excellent location with great access to all local amenities including good primary and secondary schools.

Theodore Close
Oldbury
£145,000

EPC RATING AWAITED - A three bedroomed semi detached with tandem garage, recently refitted kitchen, through lounge diner, three bedrooms and family bathroom. IN NEED OF SOME MODERNISATION

Titford Road
Oldbury
£125,000

EPC RATING E - A traditional three bedroomed semi detached property with large rear garden.

Windsor Avenue
Oldbury
£124,950

EPC RATING D - A traditional semi detached house with two reception rooms, utility room, downstairs w.c, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. This property requires SOME MODERNISATION.

New Henry Street
Oldbury
£105,000

EPC RATING D - A UNIQUELY designed two bedroom end of terraced home with AMPLE storage space and an EASY to maintain rear garden which is conveniently accessed via french doors from the lounge.
●●CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES●●

Gresham Road
Oldbury
£84,950

EPC RATING D - Connells are marketing this two bed terraced property comprising of lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and rear garden. Double glazing and gas central heating where specified. INTERNAL INSPECTION HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Winchester Close
Rowley Regis
£64,950

EPC Rating D. A well presented SECOND FLOOR apartment which comprises entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and allocated parking. Double glazing where specified.

0121 552 2671 oldbury@connells.co.uk
70/76 Birmingham Street, Oldbury B69 4EB

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Extended cul-de-sac semi is handy for town centre

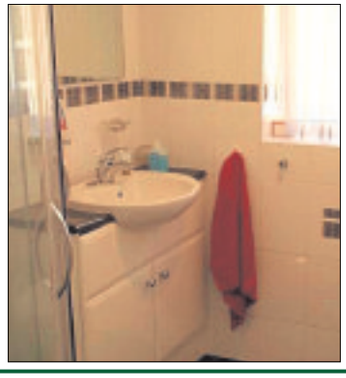
A WELL planned semi-detached property, The Pines, Walsall is in a pleasant cul-de-sac close to the town centre.

It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £165,000.

The accommodation has been extended at first floor level to offer excellent sized family living accommodation.

With double glazing and recently upgraded central heating the well planned property includes a porch, reception hall with useful cloaks cupboards, extended through lounge/dining room, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage,fore garden with parking and a neat enclosed rear garden.

For further information contact Edwards Moore on 01922 615222 or visit www.edwards-moore.co.uk



Four-bed home is in a popular area

A FOUR-BEDROOMED family home in a highly sought after location, 205 Mount Road, Penn, Wolverhampton is convenient for the amenities of Penn village and is within walking distance of Penn Common.

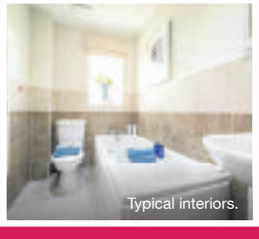
It is for sale through Sanders Wright & Freeman at £192,000.

Having been extended and improved the accommodation includes a large through living room, spacious family dining kitchen, four good size bedrooms arranged over two floors and a family bathroom. The property has a driveway and small garage to the front whilst to the rear is a good size family garden.

For further information contact 01902 575555 or visit www.swfestateagents.co.uk

Help is at hand to make the Appleton your new home.

CAMERON



Typical interiors.

The Appleton

Computer generated image, details may vary.

Available from just £140,000* when purchased with Help to Buy, the Appleton is a stylish three-bedroom home in a well-connected Tividale location.

This contemporary design features an open plan living and dining room, an inviting master suite and a sleek kitchen with integrated appliances.

With carpets included and just 5% deposit required with Help to Buy, owning a new Keepers Cross home is more affordable than you might expect.

*Based on a full purchase price of £175,000. Please ask a Sales Advisor for more details.

Visit between **11am and 5pm,** seven days a week, call **07341 569267** or email **keeperscross@cameronhomes.co.uk** to find out more.

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Help to Buy

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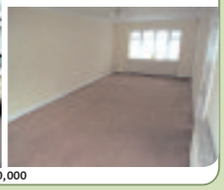
Westmore Way,Wednesbury

- DETACHED HOUSE
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- GAMES ROOM
- FIVE BEDROOMS
- TWO ENSUITES
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- GARAGE



£220,000

Bagnall Street,Tipton

- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- KITCHEN/DINER
- THREE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- FRONT&REAR GARDENS

£189,950

Comberford Drive,Wednesbury

- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM

£155,000

St. Christopher Drive,Wednesbury

- ●●GOODCHILDS●●
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Integrated Garage
- Living Room
- Dining Room

£140,000

Park Street,Wednesbury

- SEMI DETACHED HOME
- POPULAR LOCATION
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- THREE BEDROOMS

£145,000

Neptune Street,Tipton

- DETACHED PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- RECENTLY RE-FURBISHED
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in the Region Of £140,000

Pitchwood Close,Wednesbury

- Terraced Property
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- Three Story
- Three Bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner

£136,000

Hawkswood Drive,Wednesbury

- Deceptively Spacious
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-Styled Master En-Suite
- Re-Styled Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- New UPVC Double Glazed Windows
- Well Presented

Fixed £134,950

WE'RE CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN SELL YOUR PROPERTY IN 43 DAYS OR LESS.

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MIDLANDS LETTINGS AGENCY of the YEAR 2015 — THE SUNDAY TIMES / THE TIMES

43 DAY CHALLENGE

Stanbury Avenue,Wednesbury

- End terraced property
- Three spacious bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Family bathroom
- Downstairs WC
- Plentiful storage space
- Garage
- Double glazed and gas central heating

Offers in the Region Of £129,950

Peel Close,Wednesbury

- ATTRACTIVE LOCATION
- SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- FITTED KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FITTED BATHROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in the Region Of £115,000

Crockford Road,West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- Two Bedroom
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Garage
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in the Region Of £110,000

Queen Street,Wednesbury

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

View properties online www.goodchilds-uk.com

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Wednesbury
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Estate Agents & Lettings

Oxford Way,Tipton

- Three Bedrooms Three storey Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- First and second Floor Bathrooms
- Garage
- Down Stairs office
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £650

Comberford Drive,Wednesbury

- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Conservatory
- Garage
- Off Road Rear Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550

Brunswick Park Road,Wednesbury

- Two Bedroom Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- New fitted Kitchen
- Large Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £495

The Avenue,Weat Midlands

- Two Bedroom Coachhouse
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS
- TBC
- £90 Per Person

Monthly Rental Of £495

Berry Avenue,Wednesbury

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Brand New Kitchen
- Recently refurbished Through Out
- SORRY NO DHSS
- EPC - C
- £90 Process Fee (per person)

Monthly Rental Of £495

Myvod Road,West Midlands

- Two Bedroom
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Holyhead Road,

- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Separate Kitchen
- Double Glazing / Electric Heating
- Sorry NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Wiley Road South,Wednesbury

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- New Build First Floor
- Communal Entrance/Stairs
- Hallway
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating

Monthly Rental Of £475

Bassett Road,West Midlands

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Rear Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS
- EPC Rating - D
- £65 Admin Fee (per property)

Monthly Rental Of £450

...IT'S NOT LUCK WHEN
YOU WIN EVERY YEAR

The Avenue,Wednesbury

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating
- Designated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Westbourne Court,Darlaston

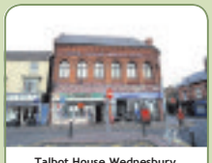
- Double Glazing
- Electric storage heating
- Ground Floor
- Secured Entrance
- Close To Darlaston Centre
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £395

Dudley Port,Tipton

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Central Location
- Gas central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £375



Talbot House,Wednesbury

- First Floor Apartment
- Central Location
- Good Transport links
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £325

Harrowby Drive,Tipton

- One Bedroom Studio apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off road parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £300

View properties online www.goodchilds-uk.com

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- Wednesfield
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your Free Market Appraisal
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Three-bedroomed terraced house is perfect for family

THIS three-bedroomed terrace in Vicarage Road, West Bromwich is for sale through Bartrams at offers in excess of £105,000.

With double glazing, central heating and a rear garden it has a lounge with an electric fire, a dining room with doors opening to the rear garden, a kitchen with splash-back tiling, a range of units and working surfaces, a bathroom with a modern suite, three bedrooms and a rear garden with a slabbed area, lawned area with borders and shrubs and a gate to the rear giving access to a gully. Contact Bartrams on 0121 6019370 or visit www.bartrams.com

Bartrams

TEL. 0121 601 9370
www.bartrams.com

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£184,950

HYDES ROAD, WS10 9SX

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Close To Local Shops & Amenities
- EPC TBC, Freehold

£169,950

MARSH LANE, B71 2DR

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

CROCKFORD ROAD, B71 2ES

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC RATING E,
- Freehold

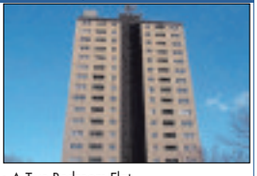
£115,000

FREEMAN ROAD, WS10 0HQ

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Driveway For Approx. 6 Cars
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£97,500

2 BRIARLEY, B71 3PG



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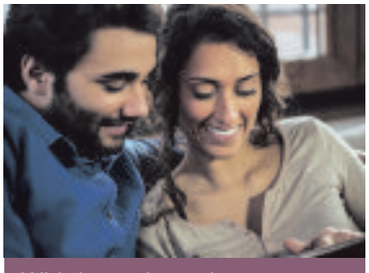

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Text.. REPLY26 (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: REPLY26 123456 ***hi get in touch...*** then send to **80098**. Successfully received messages cost £1.30 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for yr safety and security.

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Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137**

JENNI, hairdresser, brunette, caring and fun. WLTM chap any age, must be discreet with car, I have a nice home to meet in. **Text only Box: 4139156**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTM tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135**

KAREN, curvy brunette, 42yrs loves men of all ages and sizes but must make me laugh. I am married with open marriage. **Text only Box: 4020257**

SARA, 39, homeowner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box: 419673**

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. **Text only Mailbox: 5419773**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

MANDY, 45, friendly outgoing arty female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421503**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451**

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, fun times and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421259**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTM nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421241**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ **Text only to Mailbox: 5404865**

ROSIE, 43yrs, bored and lonely, I don't get out much but would like to meet a nice chap, married or single, fun only pls. **Text only Box 4078225**

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115**

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTM child friendly male, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269**

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839**

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. **Text only to mailbox: 5392585**

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757**

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

HI I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421413**

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407953**

JAYNE, 42, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421311**

ABIGAIL, 33yrs slim sophisticated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasures with a discreet experienced man, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 421339**

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701**

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715**

LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. **Text only mailbox no: 5372466**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685**

CHRIS, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTM caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667**

ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTM similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662**

Single Men

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YOUNG at heart male, smart, looks younger than age, likes socalising, looking for companionship & friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 5412069**

SHROPSHIRE trucker, 54, WLTM female, 40-65, black or white, for friendship, fun and hopefully more x **Text only Mailbox: 5411957**

DOMINANT Goddess sought by tall slim compliant white male, 50, who WLTM an elegant, sensual, high heeled lady, any age/race. **Text only Mailbox: 4673363**

SMOKIN' rock geezer, 53, into gigging & camping WLTM rock chick 46-58ish, into similar, to share experiences, GSOH essential! **Text only Mailbox: 5414037**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, bike rides and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

GRAHAM, 50s, 5ft10, blue eyes, very smart, OHAC, solvent, smoker, WLTM a very feminine, sensual, high heels lady, 36-52, for romantic evenings out and holidays, South Cheshire, Staffs, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421103**

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148**

JOHN, 60s, sincere, looking to love and be loved, hurt in the past, likes meals out, sports and east coast. **Text only Mailbox: 4467786**

YOUNG looking 56 single male, looking for a relationship with petite 40 to 50 year old, likes going out/staying in. **Text only Mailbox: 5428643**

MIKE, 6ft, medium to big build, WLTM lady for no stings fun, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421359**

MALE seeking female, 45 plus, status unimportant, discretion assured for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418481**

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

MATURE 23 year old. Career minded. Workaholic. Looking for a chat maybe more? Age does not matter. **Text only Mailbox: 5423510**

NEIL 52, solvent, average build, GSOH seeks a caring romantic female for fun nights in and out, and lots of cuddles & kisses. **Text only Mailbox: 5418572**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

GENUINE male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

WALSALL male looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

STEVE 58 yrs, 6ft, average build, seeking woman for NSA mutual pleasure, marital status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5400701**

YOUNG at heart lonely 55yr old male, 5ft 10, medium build, n/s, GSOH, loyal, looking for a female for adult fun time, possible LTR. **Text only to mailbox: 5321154**

SOUTH Notts guy, 60, medium 5'10 seeks attractive lady for evening & weekend fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5339775**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

62yr old professional male seeks female 55-70, curvy and feminine, for fun, laughter and relationship. **Text only to mailbox: 4435871**

TREVOR 45, likes cinema, going out, some quiet nights in and looking for someone with similar interests. **Text only to mailbox: 5392042**

COLIN 48, loving, kind, seeks loving kind caring cuddly lady 48 to 54 for LTR, love and romance. **Text only to mailbox: 5308886**

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191**

MALE 55, stocky, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407741**

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what's on

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ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 3rd April (also Bromsgrove every Fri) Stalls available. EST 1979, Waverley. Next Book Fair Sunday 17th April. 0121 550 4123

ANTIQUES COLLECTORS FAIR Sunday 3rd April, Oak Park Leisure Center, Lichfield road, Walsall Wood, WS9 9PQ. Open 10am-3pm £1.50 entrance, £1 OAP. Free parking. Tel 07947271947

PENKRIDGE ANTIQUES & Collectors market. Thursday 7th April, Penkridge ST19 5AP. Free parking, free entry. Open 9am- 3pm. Tel 07947271947

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5 Business & Farming

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public & legal notices

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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/16/59190	Mr Manesh Patel Devan Homes Ltd	Land On The South Side Of Peel Street Tipton	Proposed variation of condition 1 of planning approval DC/14/57407 – substitution of house types.

This is a major application.

DC/16/59155	Mr Mark Horsley Marcity Homes	Atlas Metals Limited Atlas House Cranford Street Smethwick B66 2RX	Variation of condition 1 of planning permission DC/11/53259 – proposed substitution of house types.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE
(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.
Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Sidaway Street, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Sidaway Street, Cradley Heath from the junction with Mace Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 22/04/16, effective from 01/04/16. Traffic will be diverted via Claremont Street, Trinity Street and Mace Street and vice-versa. Purpose – works to gas main.
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Bredon Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Bredon Road, Oldbury from the junction with Martley Road to Badsey Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 13/05/16, effective from 07/04/16. Traffic will be diverted via Martley Road, Badsey Road and vice-versa. Purpose – facilitate works to gas main.
The Borough Council of Sandwell (High Street, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along High Street, Smethwick between Stony Lane and Trinity Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 10/04/16, effective from 04/04/16. Traffic will be diverted via Stony Lane, Londonderry Lane, Coopers Lane, High Street and vice-versa. Purpose – repair works to a water main.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Albion Street, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Albion Street, Oldbury from its junction with Dudley Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 24/04/16, effective from 11/04/16. Traffic will be diverted via Salop Street, Dudley Road and vice-versa. Purpose – works to the gas main.
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Keelinge Street, Tipton) (Temporary One Way) Order 2016, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Keelinge Street, Tipton from its junction with Lower Church Lane. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 24/04/16, effective from 11/04/16. Traffic will be diverted via Lower Church Lane, Park Lane East, Station Street and Howard Street. Purpose – rehabilitation works to the water main.

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New lease of life for updated SEAT Ibiza

By John Griffiths

It's a sign of the times that SEAT has tagged one of its smallest (in terms of capacity) engines with its sporty 'FR' model designation.

But this isn't any old three cylinder, 999cc petrol unit – it's one of a new generation of small but highly efficient engines where, on demand, turbo charging makes up for the lack of cubic centimetres but gives one litre economy when you're cruising or crawling.

At first sight it doesn't seem that much has changed – the sculpted side panels in particular make it instantly recognisable as a descendant of one of the most popular small cars on our roads. But look more closely and you see the bonnet and boot lines have been cleaned up, and you might notice the new range of colours too.

But it's under the skin where SEAT has spent its development money, with more efficient engines and a significant – and long awaited – upgrade to the interior which will help the Ibiza compete with Johnny-come-lately rivals.

The test model was a 1.0 litre Eco TSi with 110Ps on tap – pretty effective in a small car but also aided by a whole 200Nm of torque thanks to the turbo, so power is delivered more evenly and from lower revs.

It was coupled to the Audi VW Group's excellent DSG automatic gearbox, with seven electronically controlled ratios to ensure you're always in the most efficient ratio for acceleration or economy, depending on your right foot. You can, of course, also change gear manually using the gearstick sequentially or via the up/down paddles behind the steering wheel. For me that's useful to limit speed on a steep descent, or you take full control on a twisty stretch of road, but for the most part the auto system is both rapid and responsive enough for you to leave it doing its job.

That addition of DSG partly explains the £16,140 price tag for this test model, but worth it if you're an auto fan or fed up with pumping your clutch foot up and down in traffic. And it comes without the power and economy drawbacks of older auto transmissions.

But FR also denotes of the highest, and the sportiest, trim levels so it also comes with extra standard equipment including the distinctive twin exhausts, sports front seats, unique 16-inch alloys with low profile tyres, sports suspension, automatic headlights and wipers, cruise control and, of course, a sports style flat-bottomed steering wheel.

There are three other FR engine options, two 1.4 turbo diesels with 90 and 105PS respectively, and the flagship 1.4 TSI with 150PS on tap.

Lively

Compared to normally aspirated, and in many cases smaller one litre cars, the FR's turbo makes it feel lively from the moment you set off, and according to official figures 60mph comes up in an impressive 9.3 seconds.

Line up for an overtake and the DSG system rapidly responds by changing down one or two gears to get you quickly and safely past. Unless you're pressing on, and with the availability of that higher, seventh gear, the engine is barely audible and you're more likely to notice some background noise from the wide, low profile tyres.

According to official laboratory tests, the 1.0 FR is capable of averaging 64.2mpg – and a low, tax-saving 102g/km of CO2 – but in real world driving and traffic conditions the test car returned a still creditable 50mpg.

The sports suspension doesn't result in a harsh ride, but what it does very well is to sharpen up the Ibiza's handling. It's quick to turn in and holds its line even through bumpy corners which help to make it a fun and rewarding car to drive. The brakes are smooth and powerful too.

Interior and load space of just short of 300 litres haven't changed, but the Ibiza is quite capable of accommodating four in comfort, with the five doors of the test model making access to the rear easier than in three-door versions.

It's in the interior where the major changes have taken place. It feels much higher quality, with switchgear from Ibia's big brother, the Leon, and a centre colour touchscreen controlling a range of functions. There's also a driver information display between the two principal instruments.

The test car was also kitted out with a number of extras including a first class upgraded sound system £155), climate control (as opposed to standard aircon) at £320 and rear parking sensors at £220. For £725 the car was also showcasing one of the most sophisticated and comprehensive communications, entertainment and media set-ups available in any small car, all controlled via a central touch screen.

Features include a three-dimensional navigation system with voice control, Bluetooth, MP3 and CD player, SEAT's 'Full Link' system consisting of Mirrorlink, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, capable of integrating with smart phone functions. As with its efficient engines and sharper styling, this technological wizardry shows the competent little Ibiza has undergone more than a facelift. It's given the car a new lease of life to broaden its appeal and tackle the competition head on.

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VAUXHALL CASCADA 2.0 CDTI SE,
Gold, 13,300 miles, Diesel
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(Between Cousins and Dudley Zoo)

SsangYong Korando Sports are full of value

By James Parker

SsangYong is earning a solid reputation for value and quality, and nowhere is this more evident than with its Korando Sports 1 tonne pick-up.

Korean engineered and built, the Korando Sports has a reputation for durability, and is the only pick-up to come with a five year limitless mileage warranty. The range now has three models, the S, SX and EX with prices from just £14,495 - £18,195 (ex VAT).

Based on the top of the range EX automatic, the new Korando Sports DMZ is a limited edition model featuring full camouflage paintwork, roof rails and 18" alloy wheels, and priced at £19,195 (ex VAT).

Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong Motor UK, said: "With its keen price and comprehensive list of standard equipment, Korando Sports gives you a lot of vehicle for the money – from £14,495 (ex VAT), and the reassurance of a five year limitless mileage warranty for complete peace of mind.

"It can be loaded like a truck yet still drives like a car, and really is the best value pick-up you can buy!

"The DMZ is a bit of fun. We ordered a short run initially but they were instantly snapped-up by our dealers, so we think it could prove particularly popular with owner drivers."

Korando Sports is powered by SsangYong's e-XDi 2 litre diesel engine, and provides maximum power of 155PS and peak torque of 360Nm delivered between 1,500rpm and 2,800rpm providing ample performance both on and off road, and fuel economy of up to 37.7 mpg on the Combined Cycle*.

The vehicle has very good levels of NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) and comes with on-demand 4-wheel drive, a full 1 tonne payload and a towing capability of up to 2.7 tonnes.

A real workhorse, the pick-up features a large, flat rear deck giving a 2.04m2 load area to take a Euro pallet, and fitted with load deck liner and anchor points. A range of optional rigid hard tops to provide weather protection and security to the load area is also available.

Also and unusually for the segment, the SsangYong Korando Sports also features a live rear axle supported by a sophisticated multi-link rear suspension system with progressive coil springs to give a comfortable, car like ride, instead of the more dated leaf springs employed on many other pick-ups.

Equipped

In addition to DMZ there are three models to choose from. The S is the lowest priced double cab pick-up on the market at just £14,495 (ex VAT).

The SX is a step up and extremely well equipped with 18" alloy wheels, tinted glass, air conditioning, leather covered steering wheel, remote central locking, an MP3 CD & RDS radio with a USB & auxiliary port and Bluetooth connectivity as well as speed sensitive power assisted steering. The Korando Sports SX costs £15,395 (ex VAT).

The EX also features 18" alloy wheels, and adds the luxury touch of leather upholstery with heated front seats, powered driver's seat, heated, electrically adjustable and power folding door mirrors and rear parking sensors. A Mercedes-Benz 5 speed automatic transmission with cruise control is also available as an option. The EX with manual transmission is £16,995 (ex VAT), and with automatic transmission, £18,195 (ex VAT).

As with all models in the SsangYong range, the new Korando Sports 1 tonne pick-up is covered by a 5 year limitless mileage warranty.

Designed to be totally transparent and give customers complete peace of mind, 'limitless' means just that: not a maximum mileage condition that some brands impose in their small print.

All the major mechanical components are covered including wheel bearings, suspension joints and bushes, steering joints, shock absorbers and even the audio system. Wearable components such as clutch discs and brake friction materials which could have their life reduced by poor driving are covered for one year or 12,000 miles, and the battery and paintwork for three years.

SsangYong cars are manufactured in South Korea by SsangYong Motor, which is 73 per cent owned by the Indian engineering conglomerate Mahindra & Mahindra, and imported into the UK by SsangYong Motor UK. Established in 1954 it is Korea's oldest vehicle manufacturer and only 4x4 and SUV specialist producer.

There are currently some 60 SsangYong dealers covering England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, with new locations being added to the network all the time.

Further information is available from: www.ssangyonggb.co.uk

*Fuel Consumption: Korando Sports manual – Urban: 29.4mpg Extra urban: 44.1mpg Combined: 37.7mpg

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, March 31, 2016

Suzuki re-use Baleno name

By James Parker

The name Baleno is not a new one for Suzuki. The Japanese marque introduced its original Baleno back in 1995 as a bigger brother to the Swift supermini.

Underneath the three-door hatchback, four-door saloon or estate bodyshell was a stretched Swift platform with certain engines shared. Although it was axed way back in 2002 and not exactly missed, Suzuki have still decided to resurrect the name.

In a way, it's quite fitting. Although the new car is undoubtedly more interesting to look at than its predecessor, it offers much of the same.

The key selling points are a competitive price and plenty of space inside for both passengers and their luggage. Like the original, it does this by being noticeably larger than the Swift and therefore other vehicles within the supermini class. Unlike the Nineties version, there's plenty of new componentry that makes the new Baleno a serious competitor in the supermini segment.

There are a couple of engine options in the Baleno; Suzuki's existing 1.2-litre 'DUALJET' four cylinder engine with 90PS or a new 'BOOSTERJET' 1.0-litre three cylinder powerplant with 112PS.

Power

The 1.2-litre option comes with a mild hybrid system that uses a combined starter and generator to harvest electrical energy when the Baleno slows. Not only can this charge the battery and start the engine, it can also add additional power when pulling away from a standstill. This promises to bring a useful improvement in both economy and emissions figures.

As you may have guessed from the name, the 'BOOSTERJET' motor is yet another downsized turbocharged powerplant. While it may lack the hybrid system of the 1.2, clever management of the turbocharger means it shouldn't be too far behind, even though it will offer significantly more performance. While Suzuki do talk of 'superior driving perfomance', the Baleno is unlikely to be set up for B-road blasting.

With the Swift such a fun little car, the focus will be very much on ride comfort and refinement to ensure the Baleno appeals to a very different audience.

Compared to the Swift, the Baleno is longer, wider yet lower. This gives it a much less upright look although you'd never call it sleek.

There is an attractive feature line that rises from the headlight, over the front wing before dropping down and slowly climbing to meet the window line. Up front there's a bold grille with a large Suzuki 'S' logo while the rear is not quiteas adventurous.

Expect trim levels to be similar to the Swift. That means SZ2 through to SZ4, although we doubt there's going to be a Sport version.

Depending on the model you select, available equipment includes daytime LED running lights, climate control, alloy wheels and of course electric windows.

Touchscreen

Those that must have the latest infotainment system will be interested in the 7" touchscreen system that is Apple CarPlay compatible via a USB lead.

There's no mention of Android Auto but the system does offer MirrorLink so you can display your apps on the touchscreen.

Further highlights include an adaptive cruise control system that can alter the car's speed to suit traffic and autonomous braking too. This is a three stage system that works by alerting the driver, increasing braking force if they are already in use and applying the brakes if the middle pedal hasn't been touched. Other safety features include ABS, six airbags, traction and stability control.

Official figures are yet to be released but Suzuki are claiming the 1.2-litre mild hybrid should have carbon emissions of around 93g/km.

Fuel economy has not been mentioned but should be competitive given the amount of carbon the Baleno looks likely to emit. This of course means free tax while features such as autonomous braking should mean insurance is low too. As for the warranty, this is a typical three year, 60,000 mile affair.

Some might think it a little odd that Suzuki seems to be competing with themselves by releasing a second car in the B segment supermini class. The truth of the matter is that the Swift and Baleno are different enough to ensure they are unlikely to steal sales from each other.

While the Swift is a funky little city car, the Baleno is that little bit bigger and more mature.

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Police team Eliott Bastable, Pete Gibbons, Carl Southwick, Gavin Sloan, Kev Franklin, and Maria

Maria is congratulated on a previous success

Maria spends hours practising

Still close – Maria with her cousin Ronnie O'Sullivan

Cue Ronnie's cousin who wants to Rocket ahead

AS one member of the family continues to make the news, Maria Catalano is hoping she will be a headline act in April.

The 33-year-old from Netherton will be striving to win her first world snooker championship after finishing runner-up on five occasions – just a couple of weeks before her cousin Ronnie O'Sullivan bids for his sixth crown at the famous Crucible venue in Sheffield.

Catalano's shot at glory will take place in the more low-key surroundings of the Northern Snooker Centre in Leeds as the women's game fights to break down the barriers of a male-dominated sport.

Encourage

But the current world No. 4 is hoping that the days where the ladies' efforts are overlooked will soon be a thing of the past. The World Ladies Billiards and Snooker Limited (WLBS) was formed last year to encourage participation from grassroots level and raise the profile of the women's game, joining forces with the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

Dudley's world No. 1 – and Catalano's close friend – Reanne Evans caused a stir last year when she pushed former world champion Ken Doherty in a 10-8 loss in the qualifying event for last year's world championships. And Hong Kong's Ng On Yee will be in the qualifying tournament this time around.

"The WLBS has been formed and the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association have taken us under their wing," said Catalano, who plays on the local circuit for West Midlands Police in the Stourbridge League and Woodfield in the West Midlands League.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"The ladies' game has struggled since it started, really. The difference in prize money is crazy."

"The ladies' game has struggled since it started, really. The women's game needs more exposure and they seem to have big plans. The difference in prize money is crazy. For our world championships it was £1,500 for the winner last year – the men's was £300,000."

For the time being Catalano has to be content with chasing the meagre offerings in tournaments around the country while working for the family business, Antonio's Ice Cream.

"I have never been able to take the game full-time because I have never had a sponsor," she added.

Her love of the game is obvious. "I was about five or six and I remember having a snooker table cake for my birthday," she laughed.

"Obviously my family were interested in the sport with Ronnie playing. I saw him doing well and earning a few quid and thought I want to try that. We all used to watch it on the TV and I was a big Steve Davis fan."

While her friends were out and about, Catalano was chalking up the hours on the green baize. "I started to play at Brierley Hill Snooker Club and that was it. I played every single night. I fell in love with it straight away."

Even success on the American pool circuit failed to tempt her away. "I won the Florida State Championships, which is a big event, and qualified for the US Open. But pool is not for me."

And Catalano, who beat her idol Davis in an exhibition match last year and teamed up with Evans to defeat Shaun Murphy and Mark Selby in a promotional event last month, has never felt out of place among male team-mates and opponents.

A few tips from O'Sullivan helped along the way and the pair are still in regular contact.

"He is just very special. I would say he is the best ever. I know he causes a bit of controversy now and again, but he is a genius."

Catalano will be cheering O'Sullivan on at the Crucible as usual, but for now is focused on her own shot at world glory after missing last year.

"The ambition is still there and I am going to win it one day, definitely."

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Sport

Ronnie's cousin is on cue to rocket ahead
Page 51

Heathens in perfect start to the season

CRADLEY kicked off their season in perect fashion with a 51-39 win over Belle Vue on their Monmore Green return.

Star duo Max Clegg and Ashley Morris both went unbeaten as the Heathens disposed of the National League newcomers to claim all three points.

Skipper Clegg saw off former teammate Matt Williamson to win the opening race of the night – setting the tone for a powerful performance as the home side accounted for 12 race winners to come out on top.

The two sides traded heat advantages in the early stages, but when Morris picked off the exciting Daniel Bewley to win heat four it gave them some breathing space. Two more classy wins for the heat-leader pair kept the Heathens ahead at halfway before debutants James Purchase and Ben Basford made a breakthrough with a crucial 5-1 in heat eight.

Purchase dusted himself down from a nasty fall after he was wiped out by the enthusiastic Bewley in the original staging to claim a composed race win in the re-run – his first since returning to the sport after a decade-long absence.

The Heathens looked set to strike another devastating 5-1 in the next race as middle order duo Luke Chessell and Jack Kingston stormed from the tapes to hit the front. However, Kingston picked up some unexpected grip entering the final lap and was sent flying awkwardly into the fence on the back straight.

Cradley nonetheless came on strong in the closing stages, with Morris and Clegg striking timely 5-1s in heats 13 and 15 to wrap up victory and prevent the Colts from taking a consolation point.

CRADLEY: Max Clegg 15, Ashley Morris 13+2, Luke Chessell 11, Ben Basford 5+1, James Purchase 5, Jack Kingston 1, Bradley Andrews 1.

BELLE VUE: Daniel Bewley 11+1, Rob Shuttleworth 8+1, Matt Williamson 8, Lee Payne 4, Andy Mellish 3+2, David Holt 2.

Shrimpers keeper linked with move to the Hawthorns

ALBION have been linked with Southend's highly-rated keeper Daniel Bentley.

The 22-year-old is out of contract at the League One side this summer.

Bentley helped Southend win promotion to League One in 2013/14 by saving two spot-kicks in a the play-off final shoot-out against Wycombe Wanderers.

Queens Park Rangers tried to buy Bentley last summer, but had three bids rejected, the last of which is believed to have been around £1.25m.

Because Bentley is under the age of 23 and a Southend academy product, Albion would have to pay the Shrimpers compensation, even if they picked him up on a free transfer.

Meanwhile, Callum McManaman could be back in contention for Albion's trip to Sunderland on Saturday after playing 45 minutes in a behind-closed-doors friendly against Burnley this week.

The 24-year-old winger has been out since the end of January with damaged ankle ligaments, but he completed one half in the goalless draw with the Clarets at the Baggies training ground.

Glover's title bid is slashed by rival

Wood in control against Tipton's Glover, left

Boxing

TIPTON'S Lee Glover faces an uncertain future after his third crack at a bonafide belt ended in less than two rounds. Glover was counted out of his crack at the Midlands featherweight title on Saturday night on the end of some devastating punches from Leigh Wood.

They clashed on the under-card of Kell Brook's successful defence of the IBF world welterweight title against Kevin Bizier at the Sheffield Arena.

The belt was vacated by Bobby Jenkinson, after he won it by outpointing Paul Holt at Wolverhampton Civic Hall last year. 'The Tipton Slasher' never got to grips with his rival from Gedling in Nottinghamshire. A huge rebuilding process will now be required for the 28-year-old, who will need a significant period to regroup for a potential fourth title shot.

Priory Park fighter James Mongan is one of five fighters added to the West Midlands contingent heading to finals weekend in the England Junior Championships. this weekend.

Another will be Paige Goodyear, the double national champion, from Brooklands home gym in Dudley.

EARN A PLACE, LEKO IS URGED

ASSISTANT head coach Dave Kemp has told Albion wonderkid Jonathan Leko to earn his place in the first team.

The 16-year-old striker scored one goal and set up another in England's 3-1 European under-17 Championship qualifying win over Turkey.

Pacy and powerful, there are high hopes at the club for the six-foot teenager born in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He made his debut in the 3-0 Capital One Cup defeat at Norwich this season and has been training with the first team.

But Kemp says age is not a factor when the squad is picked. He said Leko had to prove his worth as much as anyone else at the club.

"Just because someone's young doesn't mean they play, they have to earn it," he said. "You've got to show that you have the nous, plus the ability and the attitude. It's not a given just because you're young and talented, that doesn't do it.

Winning

"Football's a competitive business, it's a winning business, anybody that can help you win is going to be involved," Kemp added.

"If they earn it they've got every chance of being selected but having said that, that applies all season long. You have to force your way in with how you play."

Another academy striker, 17-year-old Tyler Roberts, was handed a professional contract at the club earlier this season and like Leko, he has impressed boss Tony Pulis in training.

Meanwhile, Gareth Mcauley is expecting to sign a 12-month extension soon.

The 36-year-old centre-back has played 31 times this season and, for the first time, has confirmed that he wants to continue playing football next season.

McAuley's current deal expires this summer. He recently became the club's oldest outfield player in the Premier League. But even though he turns 37 in December, the Northern Irishman shows no signs of letting up.

"Discussions are ongoing," said McAuley. "Hopefully I'll be playing football at West Brom next season. I'm happy at 36 – 37 in December – I don't expect to be playing forever but I hope to give myself the best opportunity for doing that."

Boys heading for Wembley

Sandwell Academy celebrate victory in the u-14 boys People's cup Final against Haverhill

SANDWELL Academy have netted a Wembley appearance following their success in a national competition.

The teenagers won the under-14 boys division of the FA People's Cup, and will be presented with their trophy at the FA Cup Final on May 21.

Headteacher Simon Topper said: "Both our boys and girls teams thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing in the competition, and for the boys to be crowned champions was an added bonus.

"They are so excited to be presented with the trophy at Wembley at the FA Cup Final."

Sandwell were among 35,000 teams that entered the tournament in January, across 11 different categories.

The under-16 girls also reached the showpiece in Sheffield. The finals were made up of groups with the winners progressing to the final.

The boys won early games against Southwark All Stars and North Tyneside B 8-1 and 7-1 respectively before facing Haverhill Rovers in the final and winning 4-2.

The team were presented with their trophy on the day and had a picture taken with former Albion winger Kevin Kilbane.

Harvey Cartwright, who scored in the final, said: "It's a great feeling."

Brummies dominant in trophy tie

BIRMINGHAM got their season off to a dream start as they overcame Stoke 57-33 in the National Trophy.

The Surestop Brummies put in a dominant performance, achieving six 5-1 maximums in their season opener.

A bumper crowd turned out to see the new-look reigning champions and team manager Graham Drury was delighted with a 'brilliant all-round night'.

He said: "The performance, the score, the turnout on the terraces, everything was so good. I asked the lads to lay down a marker and they certainly did just that.

"I don't like reading too much into early season performances but to score as we did tonight without our No.1 surely bodes well for the rest of the season. It was a real good test for our boys, Stoke pushed us close at times and it was a really good meeting.

"With what's gone on with a few clubs in British Speedway over the past week or so, for us to have a night like we did is really pleasing."

Club captain Tom Perry top scored for the Brummies, ending his night with four straight victories after some earlier bike problems.

Darryl Ritchings secured the Ductair Ltd Rider of the Night after some spectacular battles out front.

Danyon Hume and Tom Bacon had debuts to remember as both secured paid double-figures.

Jack Parkinson-Blackburn highlighted his potential, picking up three-paid wins while Jack Smith picked up a win and a paid victory either side of an awkward looking tumble in heat four.

BIRMINGHAM 57: Tom Perry 15+1, Darryl Ritchings 14+1, Danyon Hume 9+1, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 8+3, Tom Bacon 6+4, Jack Smith 5+1, Zach Wajtknecht R/R.

STOKE 33: Tony Atkin 10, Ben Wilson 10, Danny Phillips 6, Chris Widman 3+1, Shaun Tedham 2+1, Ryan MacDonald 2, Lewis Millar 0

McClean is out to exorcise demons

ALBION'S James McClean wants to exorcise the demons of Euro 2012 with Republic Of Ireland this summer after his confidence was shattered four years ago.

The Baggies winger was a bit-part player in 2012, coming on for the last 15 minutes for Giovanni Trapattoni's men in a 4-0 drubbing at the hands of Spain.

"I went into the tournament at that time in the form of my life," said McClean. "That tournament shattered my confidence because I felt I should have been playing."

"This time is different," he said. I've been involved in all the qualifiers and I can't wait to get there now."

★★★

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Helping you hear the things you love

The Special Hearing Advice Week offers you the opportunity to try the following free and with no obligation:

- **FREE hearing assessment & video otoscopy** – check the health of your ear on a live colour screen
- **Live demonstration** of your ideal hearing aid programmed to your individual needs
- **5 star clean & check-up** of your existing hearing aids – all makes and models

Come and see us at the following venue:

Monday 11th to Friday 15th April

Age UK Sandwell
15-17 Bull Street
West Bromwich
West Midlands
B70 6EU

To book your free hearing assessment call us today on
0800 620 0301

Hearing in background noise **let's make things clear**

We offer definitive evidence based advice on what improvements can be made to your hearing in background noise and learn about any limitations you may have.

How do **Age UK Hearing Aids** make sense of speech especially in background noise?

Over the years providers of hearing care have become very skilled at defining the actual hearing loss you have using Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA), this is what most people mean when they say having a "hearing test". However, defining the effect a hearing loss can have on our ability to listen and communicate is far harder to calculate.

These tests are used to program hearing aids in a basic way. They don't reliably tell you how the brain is working in respect of processing the sounds. So you can have two people with identical PTA test results but who have VERY different experiences with their hearing and very different abilities to communicate.

Age UK Hearing Aids are tackling the problem of background noise head on by creating an innovative new way of dealing with this issue. It's a popular misconception that your hearing will be improved simply by amplifying what you hear. But one of the most common problems people encounter with hearing difficulties in background noise is that speech remains muffled and indistinct and that unwanted noise swamps foreground sounds. Simply making sounds louder doesn't make speech any clearer.

How we test our ability to communicate

At **Age UK Hearing Aids** we have combined the hearing test with a suite of assessments that provide a 360° analysis of a person's hearing. Each assessment is linked to a phase of communication decline which we have called the **5 phases of communication decline.**

The 5 phases of communication decline

Phase 1 – Sensitivity to sound
We use the standard Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA) hearing test to assess any decline in sensitivity to sound.

Phase 2 – Speech discrimination in quiet
We use Free Field Word Recognition Tests, presented through a calibrated loud speaker, to assess any decline in speech recognition.

Phase 3 – Speech discrimination in noise
We use a special calibrated Speech in Noise test to measure what level speech needs to be, relative to all other competing sounds, for a patient to be able to follow a conversation. **This is the most commonly reported and most important area of communication difficulty for most of the patients we see.**

Phase 4 – Comfort or tolerance to background noise
We use the Acceptable Noise Level (ANL) test to measure at what level an individual finds noise annoying relative to a conversation at a comfortable volume. This assesses any decline in acceptable noise levels.

Phase 5 – Non response to amplification
Once we program a hearing solution and apply that hearing correction to your ears we use an Aided Free Field Word Recognition test to assess the potential for improvement and design your rehabilitation pathway.

Using these five different assessment tools can identify how far any damage to your auditory system has progressed and look at the impact on your ability to communicate. After the assessment you will be given a full explanation of the results to ensure you fully understand the nature of your hearing difficulties and its effects.

We will then give advice on options available and what tailored hearing solution is right for you. As part of the consultation we can also give you a demonstration of your ideal hearing solution based on technology and best value.

Not all national hearing aid companies offer all these tests as a standard part of their service. You can be confident you are getting the very best assessment available to you.

To book your free hearing assessment call us today on **0800 620 0301**

Age UK Hearing Aids **Cosmetic Clinic**

Clear and simple advice on discreet hearing solutions to fit your lifestyle

Technological advances have enabled manufacturers to add features to tiny hearing aids. These can eliminate many of the problems associated with these highly cosmetic fittings.

However, less in size can sometimes mean less in performance so a very careful and detailed assessment is required before recommending style choices. Not only do we link the style choices you'll have to your test results but unlike many other providers with Age UK Hearing Aids less in size doesn't mean more in price.

Our approach

Our aim is to ensure you enjoy the greatest possible improvement and the best value for money. We have access to every manufacturer and only prescribe the newest and most appropriate technologies.

We specialise in offering a wide selection of discreet and invisible hearing aids and because of our detailed assessment we can tailor them into the most discrete solutions possible without impacting on their performance.

Independence & Ethics

Many hearing aid companies are either owned by or have a supply agreement with a manufacturer and as such are not truly independent.

Age UK Hearing Aids are fully independent. We can supply hearing solutions from any manufacturer.

Being independent not only means we can prescribe the right solution for you but it also allows us to gain a much broader view of the market and the latest technologies.

To take the next step you should phone us now to organise a completely free of charge and without obligation hearing assessment. Whatever you decide to do following the assessment it will prove a highly valuable experience and will allow you to learn fully what can be done to improve your hearing and help you to love life!

New invisible hearing aids - now with the same power and many features of a behind the ear hearing aid

Get more from your hearing Aids

Control and personalise your hearing system with your smartphone

Go anywhere and do everything with our breakthrough Made for iPhone® and Android Hearing Aids. These new advanced, discreet hearing aids enhance every listening experience - and connect easily to many Apple and Android devices.

- **Easy to use** - simple onscreen instructions and user interface.
- **Answer your calls** - conversations are streamed directly to your hearing aid.
- **Find My Hearing Aids feature** - find and locate lost hearing aids.
- **Microphone** - enjoy group conversation.
- **Remote Control** – change the volume on your hearing aids.
- **Integration** - reads texts and emails, directly to your hearing aids.
- **No phone contract required** - compatible with the tablets or iPod touch.

Available for iPhone®, iPad®, iPod Touch® and Android devices.

See and try for yourself with a FREE demonstration during our event week.

Image shown displays Starkey's TruLink iPhone app. Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone, iPad and iPod Touchare trademarks of Apple, registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc.

The latest digital hearing aid technology from the world's leading manufacturers

bernafon · unitron · ReSound · SIEMENS · oticon · Starkey · PHONAK · WIDEX

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ADVERTISEMENT

How the **Age UK Hearing Aids** Special Hearing Advice Week has benefited our customers

"I contacted Age UK in desperation. My hearing aids were unreliable and failed to help with clarity and background noise in particular. The audiologist gave me the most comprehensive hearing test I had ever had. I was shown a range of hearing aids on offer and how they would help me. I made my choice and they arrived a week later. They were a revelation.

The sound was so different and amazing it took a short while to get used to them. By the time the audiologist left I had a new hearing experience. They have grown on me more and more, I am so delighted I contacted the company. Their aftercare has also been superb. Thank you." **Mr Richard Phillips**

10 reasons for choosing Age UK Hearing Aids

Personal - We will help you realise the full potential of your hearing

Trust - Our evidence based assessment provides a complete picture of your hearing ability

Flexibility - We will help you where and when you want, including in the comfort of your own home

Honesty - We will only recommend the latest technology appropriate to your needs and lifestyle

Choice - You will be guided through your options at every stage

Value - Free, no-obligation hearing assessment and **low price guarantee*** on all our products

Independence - We are not tied to any manufacturer so we can offer you a complete unbiased choice

Individual - We will tailor a hearing care pathway to your specific needs

Customer Care - We are always here to help whenever you need us

Service - Unbeatable customer service including free call-out warranty and service support for life

Should you purchase a hearing system, you will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to support Age UK's charitable work.

A name you trust will help you **hear the things you love**

UK HEARING CARE. Making Sense of Hearing...

Working with Age UK Love later life

Special Hearing Advice Week

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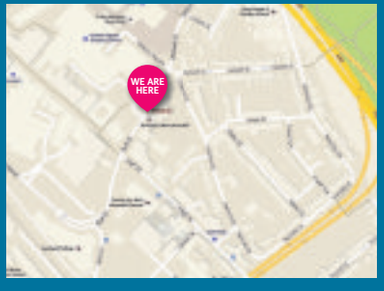

As demand is expected to be high, we recommend you book an appointment

To book your free hearing assessment call us today on

0800 620 0301

Home appointments are also available on request.

Where we use the words 'we', 'us' and 'our', it refers to UK Hearing Care, who provide Age UK Hearing Aids and work in association with Age UK Group. Age UK Hearing Aids is a trading name of UK Hearing Care Management Services Ltd (registered in England and Wales 8364706) working in association with Age UK Trading CIC. Age UK Trading CIC is a trading subsidiary of Age UK (charity number 1128267) and donates its net profits to that charity. UK Hearing Care Management Services Ltd uses the name 'Age UK' under licence agreement with Age UK Trading CIC. UK Hearing Care Management Services Ltd will aim to raise a minimum of £420,000 for Age UK Trading CIC during 2016 through the promotion and sale of hearing aids. Age UK Trading CIC is registered in England and Wales 1102972. Registered Office Tavis House, 1-6 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9NA. * Ts & Cs apply, see our website for details.